COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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SIERRA LEONE.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 115, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1891.

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No. 15.

SIERRA LEONE.

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[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 115, Old Series.]

Acting Governor CROOKS to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Freetown,
Sierra Leone, June 1, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the Blue Book for the year 1890.

2. As soon as possible the Blue Book shall be forwarded to your Lordship as usual, but the transcription of the necessary copies may occupy a month or two, the work this year, I regret to say, having been delayed owing to the census falling upon the Colonial Secretary and his Department.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1890.

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

The alterations under this head during the year were :—

(a.) Exemption of ships belonging to the African Direct Telegraph Company from the payment of Port Dues and Customs duties in respect of *bonâ fide* telegraph materials landed from such ships for the Company's use.—Ordinance No. 7 of 1890.

(b.) Foreign Parcels coming by post made liable to Customs Duties.—Ordinance No. 13 of 1890.

(c.) Abolition of Wharfage dues and in lieu thereof the *ad valorem* duty on goods, &c., not liable to specific duty imported or brought into the Colony was increased from 5 to 7½ per cent. Goods, &c., imported into Isles de Los were made liable only to 7½ per cent.—Ordinance No. 16 of 1890.

Five-sixths of the revenue is derivable from customs duties on articles imported into the Colony. The tariff consists of an *ad valorem* duty of 7½ per cent. and certain specific duties which are moderate.

There is no direct taxation.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue, including the Parliamentary grant in aid of the Colonial steamer, was 73,708*l.*, showing an increase of 7,878*l.* on the estimated amount of 65,830*l.*

SIERRA LEONE.

The following statement compares the revenue of the years 1889 and 1890:—

—	1889.	1890.	Increase, 1890.	Decrease, 1890.
	£	£	£	£
Customs - - - - - -	56,479	60,317	3,838	—
Licenses - - - - - -	3,854	3,815	—	39
Other receipts - - - - -	10,503	9,576	—	927
Total - - -	70,836	73,708	3,838	966
Net increase 1890 - -	—	—	2,872	—

The following return shows the estimated and actual receipts for 1890:—

—	Amount estimated.	Total Receipts.	More than estimated.	Less than estimated.
	£	£	£	£
Customs - - - - - -	54,000	60,317	6,317	—
Licenses - - - - - -	4,100	3,815	—	285
Other receipts - - - - -	7,730	9,576	1,846	—
Total - -	65,830	73,708	8,163	285
Net increase 1890 - -	—	—	7,878	—

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1890 amounted to 63,056*l.*, being less by 5,060*l.* than the sum voted.

The following statement compares the expenditure of the years 1889 and 1890:—

—	1889.	1890.	Increase, 1890.	Decrease, 1890.
	£	£	£	£
Salaries, &c. - - - - -	29,268	29,757	489	—
Other expenses - - - - -	37,503	33,299	—	4,204
Total - - -	66,771	63,056	489	4,204
	—	—	—	489
Net decrease, 1890 - -	—	—	—	3,715

The following statement shows the estimated and actual expenditure in 1890 :—

—	Amount estimated.	Total Payments.	More than estimated.	Less than estimated.
	£	£	£	£
Salaries - - - - - -	33,227	29,757	—	3,470
Other expenses - - - -	34,889	33,299	—	1,590
Total - - -	68,116	63,056	—	5,060

The revenue and expenditure for the past three years were as under :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1888 - - - -	63,035	63,288
1889 - - - -	70,836	66,771
1890 - - - -	73,708	63,056

showing a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 10,652*l.* for the year under report, and in view of the fact that a sum of 2,000*l.* was paid on account of the sinking fund for public works loan, when only 1,000*l.* was usually paid in previous years, the finances of the Colony may be considered as in a very healthy condition.

3.—MUNICIPALITIES.

There is no municipality in the Colony or other local body invested with authority. A bill entitled "The Municipalities Ordinance, 1889," was introduced in the Legislative Council and read a first time on the 24th October 1889, but it has made little progress. In July 1890 the Governor and Council appointed a Committee composed of the Colonial Treasurer, the Queen's Advocate, and two native un-official members of Council to consider and report upon two memorials submitted to Council bearing on the Ordinance. This Committee, having recommended that a committee of the Legislative Council should be appointed to remodel the existing Bill to suit local circumstances and requirements, was re-appointed to redraft "The Municipal Ordinance, 1889," and if necessary to take evidence; but its labours are not completed.

There is no doubt but that municipal government would be a great boon to Freetown by encouraging the community to interest themselves in local matters instead of relying as at present upon the executive Government to do everything, even to lighting the streets, supplying water, and keeping the roads and markets in repair. A century is quite long enough for a colony to be in such leading strings.

4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

This remains the same as in 1889, viz.:—50,000*l.* raised in 1871–73 for constructing public works to be repaid in 1896–98. The sinking fund for its redemption amounting to 27,831*l.* on 31st December 1890; 8,000*l.* the balance of the loan from Imperial Government in 1877, and 454*l.* excess over Imperial grant for mission in 1888 to the Almami Samadu, total, 58,454.

The liabilities of the Colony exceeded its assets on—

				£
31st December	1888	by	40,693
„ „	1889	„	33,101
„ „	1890	„	19,374

5.—PUBLIC WORKS.

A new public Cemetery, at the Gun Kissy Road, about a mile from Freetown, was completed during the year, and by an order of the Governor in Council it was constituted a legal place of burial from and after 31st December 1890. The full amount voted for works and buildings, 1,500*l.*, was spent on repairs and alterations to existing buildings, but a larger sum is required annually to keep them in thorough repair; 472*l.* was expended in the upkeep of the roads, streets, and bridges, including the cost of lighting Freetown.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure borne by the Imperial Government on account of the military establishment here in 1890 was 68,900*l.*

The amount paid by the Colony as allowance to the troops in lieu of exemption from Customs Duties was 382*l.* 14*s.*

7.—LEGISLATION.

The under-mentioned Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to establish a frontier police force.

No. 2.—An Ordinance for the detention and deportation of Kondor, a political prisoner.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year 1889.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to establish and regulate an Inland Colonial Post Office in the Colony.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to amend "An Ordinance for facilitating Appeals."

No. 6.—An Ordinance to enable the Government to pay expenses connected with trials in foreign countries.

No. 7.—An Ordinance to exempt telegraph ships from payment of port dues, &c.

No. 8.—An Ordinance to authorise the conditional discharge of prisoners under licenses.

No. 9.—An Ordinance for the detention and deportation of Bangang and Pamahung, political prisoners.

No. 10.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881."

No. 11.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Education Ordinance, 1882."

No. 12.—An Ordinance to amend the "Lunacy Regulation Ordinance, 1872."

No. 13.—An Ordinance for the collection of customs duties on parcels.

No. 14. An Ordinance to amend the "Lunacy Regulation Ordinance, 1872."

No. 15.—An Ordinance to regulate pilotage.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to amend customs duties.

No. 17.—An Ordinance to grant allowance to the troops in compensation of customs duties payable by them.

No. 18.—An Ordinance to amend the laws relative to jurors and juries.

No. 19.—An Ordinance to amend the fortifications sketching Ordinance, 1889.

No. 20.—An Ordinance to enable the War Department to acquire certain portions of land.

No. 21.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to quarantine.

No. 22.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony for the year 1891.

No. 23.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Registration of African Children Ordinance, 1869."

No. 24.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to quarantine.

No. 25.—An Ordinance for taking a census of parts of the Colony of Sierra Leone.

No. 26.—An Ordinance to repeal "The Mount Aureol Lands Ordinance, 1890."

No. 27.—An Ordinance to repeal an Ordinance for the registration of African children.

8.—Councils and Assemblies.

Executive Council.

Lieutenant-Colonels Maltby and Pachett, of the West India Regiment, and Major Fairtlough, Royal Artillery became members on assuming the command at different periods of the troops in the Colony; Mr. J. A. McCarthy, as Queen's Advocate and Major Gore and Mr. S. M. Bennett on temporary appointment as Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Legislative Council.

The members of the Executive Council being also members of the Legislative Council the foregoing changes also apply to this Board. Mr. S. Lewis, barrister-at-law, an unofficial member, was absent on leave from the Colony for a portion of the year; and Mr. S. Boyle was ill during the whole of the year.

Board of Education.

The changes among official members were the same as in the Executive Council.

The only change among unofficial members was the nomination on 6th June of Revs. D. W. Thorpe and C. H. Goodman to be acting members during the absence of the Revs. J. C. May and W. Vivian from the Colony.

9.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Maltby, Commanding the Troops, administered the Government from 1st January until 13th February, when his Excellency Sir James Hay returned to the Colony from leave of absence.

Colonial Secretariat.

Mr. H. Higgins left for England 23rd August on sick leave and was succeeded by Major Crooks, Colonial Treasurer, who acted as Colonial Secretary to the end of the year.

Districts.

Mr. J. M. Metzger, manager and coroner of the Western District, died on 17th June, and Mr. W. B. Campbell, clerk in charge of the Survey Department was appointed on 1st July to the vacant office.

Judicial Department.

The Chief Justice, Mr. W. H. Quayle Jones, was on leave to England from 22nd May to 15th September. During his absence from the Colony, Mr. H. Higgins and Major Crooks were appointed successively judges of the Supreme Court.

The Queen's Advocate and Registrar-General, Mr. J. K. Donaldson, retired 28th May, with a gratuity on the ground of ill-health, and was succeeded in the office of Queen's Advocate by Mr. J. A. McCarthy, B.L., a native, who had been acting in that capacity.

During Mr. McCarthy's leave of absence to England, Mr. R. Brett, B.L., Master of the Supreme Court and Registrar-General acted as Queen's Advocate.

The Police Magistrate, Coroner, and Manager of Freetown, the First Eastern and Mountain Districts, Mr. E. Adolphus, retired on pension, 26th May 1890. The duties were performed by surgeons Gordon and Croft, Army Medical Staff, until the arrival on 26th December of Mr. J. B. Walker, B.L., who was appointed Police Magistrate and Coroner of the Police District of Freetown.

The Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mr. Daniel Carrol, J.P., retired on pension 24th June 1890, and was succeeded by Mr. Reginald Brett, B.L., who was appointed Master of the Court and Registrar General of the Colony.

The Inspector General of Police was appointed ex officio Sheriff of the Colony from 5th March and Mr. W. A. Valentin as permanent Deputy Sheriff.

Police.

Captain A. McD. Moore, of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, was appointed Inspector-General, 8th February, with the local rank of Major; Captain A. G. Paske, Royal Fusiliers, an Inspector on 22nd March, but resigned shortly after arriving in the Colony; and Captain C. W. Soden, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, an Inspector on 28th June.

Gaols.

Mr. R. Wade, Keeper of Freetown Gaol, was invalided to England on 20th November and Sub-Inspector N. H. Sawyer of the police force appointed to act temporarily.

Customs.

Mr. C. W. Edwin, senior landing waiter, was promoted Chief Examining Officer, and Mr. J. W. Cole, Second Clerk, to be Chief Clerk from 1st April.

The other changes are unimportant.

10.—PENSIONS.

The following new pensions were granted in 1890 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Mr. F. A. Jones, Chief Clerk, Registrar General's Department - - -	29	14	0
Mr. S. J. Thomas, Under Gaoler, Gaol Department - - - - -	52	5	4
Mr. E. Adolphus, Police Magistrate and Coroner, Freetown, &c. - -	208	6	8

A gratuity of 468*l.* 15*s.* was granted to Mr. J. K. Donaldson, Queen's Advocate and Registrar General, on his retirement from the service through ill-health.

There were also retiring allowances amounting to 157*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.* granted to certain police constables and others.

On the other hand, the pension list was reduced in 1890 by the death of the following persons receiving the amounts specified below:—

	£	s.	d.
Ex Chief Justice W. W. Streeten, C.M.G., 11th January	396	16	9
Mr. J. B. Elliott, 24th March	139	10	0
Mr. F. A. Jones, 22nd June	29	14	0

11.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

Denmark.—T. S. Buckley.

France.—G. A. Mondehare.

Germany and Portugal.—P. Lemberg. P. Stuart acted from 6th May to 4th June, when Mr. Lemberg returned to the Colony and resumed his consular duties.

Greece.—P. B. Zochonis acted from 20th December vice Mr. Caffala absent.

Italy.—G. B. Zochonis recognised from 17th March. W. M. Pittendrigh acted from 9th May during absence of Mr. Zochonis.

Liberia.—A. E. Boyle appointed provisionally as Acting Consul from 2nd June.

The Netherlands and Spain.—F. Burman. Otto Hugentobler acted from 30th July to 9th October during Mr. Burman's absence.

United States of America.—B. Bowser recognised from 4th November.

12.—POPULATION.

The census was taken in 1881 with the following results:—Males, 31,201; females, 29,345, total, including the military, 60,546, of whom the whites numbered, males, 237; females, 34.

The occupations of the people were then distinguished as follow:—

Government employés	679
Ministers of religion and members of legal and medical professions	159
Merchants, traders, hawkers and mercantile clerks	12,700
Farmers, farm labourers, and market people	12,317
Grumettas, labourers, and house servants	3,767
Fishermen and native seamen	1,964
Mechanics, butchers, bakers, &c.	2,611
Miscellaneous	4,111
School children	12,592
Infants	3,683
No occupation	5,963
Total	60,546

The area of the Colony has been considerably extended since 1881, and no doubt when the census of 1891 is taken the population, roughly speaking, will be about 75,000.

The vital statistics furnished for the last three years give the following :—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1888 - - - -	1,358	1,248
1889 - - - -	1,250	1,363
1890 - - - -	1,249	1,531

The number of marriages contracted in the Colony during the year is reckoned at 240.

13.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

There have been no changes of any importance under this head.

The following table shows the different religious sects and their adherents in the Colony according to the returns furnished by those denominations :—

Denomination.	Places of Worship.	No. of Persons generally attending.
Church of England - - -	53	9,631
Roman Catholic - - -	3	380
Wesleyan - - - -	34	13,730
Free Church Methodist - -	14	2,459
American or Maroon Methodist -	1	300
African M. E. Church of America -	3	680
American Mendi Mission or United Brethren in Christ - -	8	958
Huntingdonian - - -	11	1,258
Baptist - - - -	3	356
Total - -	130	29,752

There is a large body of the Mohammedan faith. With the exception of the grants earned by the elementary schools, the Church of England alone is in receipt of any State aid. The other churches are either self-supporting or aided by missionary societies.

Only the Bishop of the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Priests and the superintendent of the Wesleyan and Free Church Methodists are Europeans. All the other Ministers of religion are Africans.

14.—EDUCATION.

The following table gives the number of elementary schools and scholars attending them which are annually examined by the inspector of schools and which received grants from Government based on the recommendations of the Board of Education :—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.			Grants.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	£
1888 -	67	5,338	4,205	8,543	762
1889 -	77	4,723	4,499	9,222	806
1890 -	73	4,662	4,279	8,941	891

There is a decrease of 281 on roll numbers of 1889 due to (1) influenza or (2) to Sierra Leoneans going for purposes of trade beyond the school area. On the grants-in-aid there is an increase on last year's grant of 85*l.* The inspector also reports a great improvement in the buildings and school materials.

Industrially no progress has been made. In addition to the above there were 18 elementary schools, with 1,047 scholars in 1890, which were below the government standard.

In Freetown there are six high schools, three for boys and three for girls, with a total attendance during the year under report of 324 boys and 186 girls.

There is a school at the village of Charlotte for liberated African children which is supported jointly by the Imperial and Colonial Government.

No progress was made during the year with the scheme put forward by the Government in 1889 for an industrial training school towards which one third of the cost, or a sum not exceeding 300*l.*, would be contributed from the funds of the Colony. A committee was nominated to consider the question, but the guarantee fund, so necessary to bring the scheme to a successful issue, was the rock upon which it split.

The Fouray Bay College, on the outskirts of Freetown, belongs to the Church Missionary Society, and is affiliated to the University of Durham. Students at it are therefore eligible to take degrees in theology, arts, &c., &c.

Two weekly newspapers were published in Freetown and a fortnightly one at Sherbro.

SIERRA LEONE.

15.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following table gives the total value and duty paid for three years :—

Imports from.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total Value.	Duty.
	£	£	£	£	£
1888 - - - - -	190,529	1,211	58,407	250,147	43,742
1889 - - - - -	210,800	1,110	65,871	277,781	49,034
1890 - - - - -	295,012	1,627	93,269	389,908	53,810

Exports to.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£
1888 - - - - - -	166,569	17,651	154,823	339,043
1889 - - - - - -	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890 - - - - - -	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319

16.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years were :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1888 - - - - -	702	255,330	703	262,351	1,405	517,681
1889 - - - - -	724	291,239	726	297,932	1,450	589,171
1890 - - - - -	868	342,591	854	336,918	1,722	679,509

That the abolition of tonnage dues in 1887 and compulsory pilotage in 1889 was a wise step is evident from the increase in the number of vessels that entered the port during the year. Ships must go a long distance south for the safe anchorage and coal supply that Freetown harbour offers, and in no other West African port can there be found such a provision market and a plentiful supply of good drinking water.

17.—AGRICULTURE.

Grants of land in the Eastern District were given to Hon. S. Lewis and Mr. G. B. Williams, both of whom had already possessed plantations in that locality. There has been no improvement worth recording in the agricultural prospects of Sierra Leone, and it is generally admitted that the people require instruction in the art. The model gardens mentioned in the report for 1889 failed for want of support.

18.—MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

No manufactures have been started during the year and no mines exist in the Colony.

18.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in gaol during the last three years was as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Total.
1888 - - - -	842	75	925*
1889 - - - -	1,073	64	1,141†
1890 - - - -	745	52	797

The Colonial Surgeon in his annual Report states the general health of the prisoners (782) confined in the prison during the year has been remarkably good. No re-appearance for four years of " Beri Beri " and no death in 1890. The last death occurred 23 months ago.

20.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following return shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last three years:—

Year.	No. of Offences.	No. of Persons apprehended.	No. of Summary Convictions.	No. of Supreme Court Convictions.	Acquittals.
1888 - -	1,995	2,327	1,318	66	226‡
1889 - -	2,158	2,487	1,409	66	310‡
1890 - -	1,753	1,973	920	63	345‡

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* Including eight juveniles. † Including four juveniles.

‡ Exclusive of cases that fell through for want of prosecution.

The Queen's Advocate, in report on Criminal Statistics Return 1890, says:—

"From the comparative table of the Annual Return, apparently crime is on the decrease. I regret, however, to record that with the diminution of crimes, the manner and method of their committal have been most alarmingly unprecedented in the criminal history of the Colony.

"The criminal class has been largely augmented by the abnormal influx of Aborigines into the Colony.

"The prevailing crimes are larceny and other offences relating to property.

* * * * * * *

"During the year under review there were six convictions of manslaughter and one of murder. In the latter case the sentence of death was commuted to life imprisonment."

21.—Hospitals.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals and the number of deaths for the last three years were:—

Year.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1888 - - - -	701	103
1889 - - - -	702	135
1890 - - - -	942	169

The Colonial Surgeon reports:—

"The public health of the Colony during the year was fairly good, though during the early part of it the 'universal or Russian influenza' prevailed throughout the Colony.

"There were 606 cases treated in the several institutions in Freetown and Kissy with only seven deaths. The usual types of remittent and intermittent fevers prevailed, and in Freetown there was one case of so called black-water fever, all of which recovered with the exception of a case of bilious remittent fever, which was complicated with suppression of urine, and a case of black-water fever which ended fatally from effusion of the brain after all the fever symptoms had subsided.

"The six deaths among Europeans in 1890 are as follows:—

Malarial fever.—American missionaries who refused medical treatment - - -	3
Epilepsy - - - - - -	1
Cases of fever landed from shipping for burial-	2
Total - - - -	6

"The high death rate among the resident natives in Freetown, viz., 671, is due to insanitary domestic arrangements, mode of life, and quackery."

22.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The total admissions, discharged cured, and deaths for the last three years were:—

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Deaths.
1888 - - - -	14	5	9
1889 - - - -	17	1	10
1890 - - - -	20	9	3

There were 95 inmates in the asylum.

23.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

With the exception of the Government hospitals and asylum there are no almshouses or charitable institutions in the Colony. The Colonial Government votes 400*l.* annually, which is distributed among paupers by the Charity Commissioners appointed by the Government.

24.—BANKS.

(A.) The Treasury Savings Bank was established in January 1882. The number of depositors at the end of that year was 44. That its safety and convenience are much appreciated by the people is evident from the following table which gives the number of depositors and amount due to them in the past three years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount Due to Depositors.
		£
1888 - - - -	697	11,929
1889 - - - -	904	14,179
1890 - - - -	1,120	16,485

Deposits are received from one shilling upwards, but no individual is allowed to deposit more than 130*l.* to his own account within a year, nor to have more than 500*l.*, exclusive of interest, in the bank.

The rate of interest is 2½ per cent. per annum, and the funds of the bank are invested in Government security.

(B.) The West African Bank, Limited (capital authorised 250,000*l.*), opened a branch in Freetown at the commencement of the year. The branch paid-up capital amounts to 7,000*l.*, and deposits received during the year amounts to 2,000*l.*

25.—GOVERNMENT HOUSES.

The Government Houses in Freetown, at Cape Sierra Leone, and Kortright Hill are not in that condition of repair which it is desirable they should be.

26.—RAILWAYS, ROADS, AND TELEGRAPHS.

There are no railways nor internal telegraphs in the Colony. Roads to the interior districts have been constructed and well kept.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In concluding this Report, attention may fairly be drawn to the progress of the Colony during the year under review.

Being free from even the rumours of wars or "warboys" raids, the volume of trade has grown and, as a consequence, the revenue, imports, and exports have all increased. This satisfactory result is due in no small degree to the prolonged visits of his Excellency the Governor to the interior districts for the purpose of advising the Chiefs and settling their intertribal disputes. The presence of travelling commissioners in these districts and the 30 odd detachments of frontier police which are stationed along the road from Kambia on the Skarcies River in the north to the Manna River in the south-east, a distance of about 200 miles, had a good effect also in securing peace and the safe transit of produce to the various markets.

The Ordinance to establish a frontier police force for service both within and without the Colony was passed in the Legislative Council in January 1890. Within a short space this force, consisting of one inspector-general, three inspectors, four native sub-inspectors, and 280 sub-officers and privates, has been organised by Major A. McDonnell Moore, Inspector General, and judging from its present state of efficiency gives promise of being very useful.

The best men serving at that time in the police force elected for frontier work, and the enlistment of recruits has been going on since. These men do not come from any one tribe or special part of the country, but every tribe from north to south and every language has its representative—a fact of great value as there are so many different languages spoken within and close to the Colony.

The uniform of blue serge, consisting of a light jumper and brass buttons, short knickerbockers, and a red fez is eminently soldier-like and serviceable, costing annually only 23*s*. Black leather belts and accoutrements, a Snider rifle and sword, a rolled blanket and a haversack, complete the equipment. With these the frontier policeman is actually independent.

The nature of the work performed on the frontier makes it absolutely necessary that the kit should be of the simplest description. Fording rivers, splashing through long wet marshes, cutting paths through the bush, long forced marches under a blazing sun, the hurried rush all through the night to gain some town, is not work that could be done in a tightly-buttoned jacket, a perfectly pipe-clayed belt, or brightly polished boots. The frontier police average about 32 years of age, 5 ft. 9½ ins. in height, and are physically strong and powerful men. Their simple habits of life, their great powers of endurance, courage in the field, and the absolute obedience they render, makes them a force capable of doing good work.

The civil police maintained for town work, consists of eight sergeants and corporals, and 100 constables.

The municipal question so stirred the community and divided it into sections for and against a municipality that another local weekly journal said to be the immediate offspring of the agitation, made its appearance on July 31st. In its review of the years events the situation is described as follows:—

> "The spirit of apathy and indifference manifested at all times by our people whenever matters of serious political importance demand their individual attention has not departed from them. And so to-day besides a few written acknowledgments in praise and appreciation of our efforts, no definite move has hitherto been made by the community in general."

A draft of "the Sale of Drugs and Poisons" Bill, which was printed but not presented to the Legislative Council, was viewed by the public generally as limiting the influence and practice of the druggists, and it was accordingly unfavourably received.

A small party of American missionaries arrived in the Colony in the early part of the year with the view of proceeding due east into the interior for evangelizing purposes. They tried to live in Freetown as the natives do, and being believers in the faith-healing doctrine, they objected to medical treatment. It was only to be expected, therefore, that they would be struck down with fever, and in less than a month after arrival three of them died.

A contract was entered into with Messrs. Fisher and Randall for a Weekly Mail Service by one of their steamers between Freetown and Sherbro at a cost to the Colony of 500*l*. a year, the Government being allowed free passages for six persons each trip.

Provision is made in 1891 estimates for a new hospital at Bonthe, a rifle range for the police at Bendoo, and a chapel at the newly-opened cemetery in Freetown, and now that the financial outlook is so satisfactory, it is hoped that other desirable public works long contemplated may soon be carried out also.

The construction of the fortifications for the defence of Freetown harbour, and the building of additional barracks at Tower Hill gave constant employment during the dry season to large numbers of the labouring classes. These works, which have been going on for five years, caused a great influx of aborigines to the capital, as was to be expected. In the rainy season, however, when building operations are suspended this surplus population show no desire to return to their homes in the interior, and if they evince the same spirit on the works being completed the outlook for either the Government or the governed is far from cheerful.

Then will occur an excellent opportunity to raise an inexpensive militia force for the defence of the Colony from a class of men accustomed to arms and who have stomach for the fight. The Sierra Leone Royal Militia was disbanded in 1863, and since then no similar corps has been organised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. J. CROOKS,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
Secretary of State for the
Colonies.

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No. 64.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE.
1891.

[For Report for 1890 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 14.]

Sir F. FLEMING to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
(EXTRACT.) October 5, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1891, which has been prepared by Mr. C. Burney Mitford, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1891.

Colonial Secretariat, Freetown, Sierra Leone,
SIR, September 24, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1891.

The book itself is being printed locally for the first time, and I regret that it is still in the hands of the printer, the delay in completing it being due to the unprecedented amount of other work which has had to be done in the printing office, and it was deemed advisable to postpone the printing of it until such time as some important and lengthy bills had been laid before Council.

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

There were no changes under this head during the year.

By Public Notice No. 25, of the 7th of March, it was notified that the laws relating to licences would, however, be strictly enforced in all places within the jurisdiction of the Colony from the 1st of April.

The tariff consists of certain specific duties and an ad valorem duty of 7½ per cent., which cannot but be considered moderate as compared with that of some other Colonies.

There is no direct taxation, nor is there any export duty. Articles imported for agricultural, manufacturing and educational purposes are exempted from duty, as are also coals, specie, and unpreserved fruits.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The total revenue, including the Parliamentary grant in aid of the colonial steamer, was 89,869*l.*, showing an excess of 17,520*l.* over the estimated amount, 72,349*l.*

The excess of 14,000*l.* in the revenue derived from Customs is in a measure due to the unprecedented importation of firearms and ammunition which took place during the year, but I have every reason to believe that each succeeding year will show a marked improvement on the preceding one, although the increase may not be so large as now appears to have been the case.

A steady and equable increase in the revenue is more desirable than sudden large excesses over the estimates.

Under the head of licences there was an increase of 1,492*l.*, owing to the Public Notice already referred to by me and also to the collection of certain amounts which were found to be due to the Government.

As regards the increase under the head of interest, 508*l.*, I think little or no explanation is required, as it is due to the large investments made during the year; those for "General Service" at the end of 1890 amounted to 9,000*l.* only, whereas at the close of the year now under review they had increased to no less than 23,000*l.* The investments on account of the Savings Bank also rose from 15,715*l.* to 20,215*l.*

The total increase of revenue in 1891 over that of 1890 was 18,914*l.*, whilst the decrease amounted to 2,753*l.*, showing a net increase of 16,161*l.* above the revenue of the previous year.

The following statement compares the revenue of the years 1890 and 1891:—

Heads of Receipt.	1890.	1891.	Increase, 1891.	Decrease, 1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - - - -	53,810 7 8	70,000 9 0	16,190 1 4	—
Port, Harbour, and Light Dues -	5,167 16 1	2,998 0 6	—	2,169 15 7
Licences, Excise, &c. - - -	4,725 7 5	6,201 18 7	1,476 11 2	—
Fees of Court or Office - - } Payments for Specific Services - }	4,613 19 1	4,987 17 2	373 18 1	—
Post Office - - - - -	868 1 9	820 4 7	—	47 17 2
Rents of Government Property -	146 17 6	156 9 10	9 12 4	—
Interest - - - - - -	589 9 9	1,078 7 8	488 17 11	—
Miscellaneous Receipts - -	233 18 6	416 17 5	182 18 11	—
Land Sales - - - - -	760 0 0	225 0 0	—	535 0 0
Parliamentary Grant for Colonial Steamer - - - - -	2,776 16 9	2,931 4 0	154 7 3	—
Special Receipt, Colonial Steamer -	15 6 8	52 11 4	37 4 8	—
Total - - -	73,708 1 2	89,869 0 1	18,913 11 8	2,752 12 9

Statement of estimated and actual receipts for 1891 :—

Heads of Receipt.	Amount estimated.	Total Receipts.	More than estimated.	Less than estimated.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	56,000	70,000 9 0	14,000 9 0	—
Port, Harbour, and Light Dues	2,660	2,998 0 6	338 0 6	—
Licenses, Excise, &c.	4,710	6,201 18 7	1,491 18 7	—
Fees of Court or Office Payments for Specific Services	4,446	4,987 17 2	541 17 2	—
Post Office	710	820 4 7	110 4 7	—
Rents of Government Property	173	156 9 10	—	16 10 2
Interest	570	1,078 7 8	508 7 8	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	180	416 17 5	236 17 5	—
Land Sales	—	225 0 0	225 0 0	—
Parliamentary Grant for Colonial Steamer	2,900	2,931 4 0	31 4 0	—
Special Receipts, Colonial Steamer	—	52 11 4	52 11 4	—
Total	72,349	89,869 0 1	17,536 10 3	16 10 2

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure was 73,200*l.*, and the amount actually expended was 77,965*l.* This excess was principally owing to the fact that a sum of 8,454*l.*, balance of the amount due by the Colony to the Imperial Government, was repaid by direction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

There was an excess of expenditure of 887*l.* under "Hospitals and Dispensaries," owing to the cost of certain medicines, &c., ordered in 1890 being brought to account in 1891 and also to the unexpected increase in the rate of contract prices.

Under "Miscellaneous Services" the excess of 744*l.* is due to expenses incurred in taking the Census and for work performed in the ordnance factories in England.

The excess under Public Works, recurrent and extraordinary, 2,577*l.*, is accounted for by various works having been authorised to be done and undertaken during the year which were not contemplated when the estimates were in course of preparation.

Deducting the total excess of expenditure, 4,765*l.*, from the total excess of revenue, 17,520*l.*, it will be seen that the net gain accruing to the Colony on the transactions of the year has been no less than 12,755*l.*, which cannot but be considered very satisfactory.

Sierra Leone. 1891.

The following statement compares the expenditure for the years 1890 and 1891 :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1890.	1891.	Increase, 1891.	Decrease, 1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charge for Public Debt	4,937 15 3	13,510 18 1	8,573 2 10	—
Pensions	3,012 3 3	3,054 2 4	41 19 1	—
Governor and Legislature	659 17 8	931 12 1	271 14 5	—
Colonial Secretary's Department	1,419 7 2	1,535 17 0	116 9 10	—
Provincial Administration	1,861 16 6	1,406 19 9	—	454 10 9
Native Affairs	3,681 2 6	3,683 4 0	2 1 6	—
Treasury	1,595 16 10	1,541 3 9	—	54 13 1
Customs Department	5,390 3 11	6,211 4 3	821 0 4	—
Audit Department	170 13 10	181 5 0	10 11 2	—
Port and Marine Department	1,424 8 10	656 2 11	—	768 5 11
Legal Departments	2,743 8 6	3,567 16 10	824 8 4	—
Police	11,307 0 9	12,838 16 2	1,531 15 5	—
Prisons	2,924 8 1	2,944 14 2	20 6 1	—
Medical Department	2,705 3 8	2,734 12 5	29 8 9	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,471 17 10	3,312 6 8	840 8 10	—
Sanitary	626 10 6	790 2 4	163 11 10	—
Ecclesiastical	727 2 7	681 16 0	—	45 6 7
Education	1,560 18 11	1,749 4 4	188 5 5	—
Transport	3,628 11 1	2,655 11 5	—	972 19 8
Miscellaneous Services	3,821 16 8	4,012 16 3	190 19 7	—
Post Office	872 18 8	1,382 9 0	509 10 4	—
Colonial Surveyor's Department	647 15 7	516 0 11	—	131 14 8
Public Works, Extraordinary	—	1,920 18 3	—	—
Do. Recurrent	1,972 2 8	3,026 8 1	1,054 5 5	—
Colonial Steamer	2,893 2 3	3,119 2 5	226 0 2	—
Total	63,055 17 6	77,965 4 5	17,336 17 7	2,427 10 8

SIERRA LEONE.
1891.

Statement of estimated and actual expenditure for the year 1891 :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount estimated.	Total Payments.	More than estimated.	Less than estimated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charge for Public Debt	6,000 0 0	13,510 18 1	7,510 18 1	—
Pensions	3,105 0 0	3,054 2 4	—	50 17 8
Governor and Legislature	1,065 0 0	931 12 1	—	133 7 11
Colonial Secretary's Department	1,515 0 0	1,535 17 0	20 17 0	—
Provincial Administration	1,947 0 0	1,406 19 9	—	540 0 3
Native Affairs	4,614 0 0	3,683 4 0	—	930 16 0
Treasury	1,641 0 0	1,541 3 9	—	99 16 3
Customs Department	6,276 0 0	6,211 4 3	—	64 15 9
Audit Department	286 0 0	181 5 0	—	104 15 0
Port and Marine Department	822 0 0	656 2 11	—	165 17 1
Legal Departments	5,188 0 0	3,567 16 10	—	1,620 3 2
Police	14,189 0 0	12,838 16 2	—	1,350 3 10
Prisons	3,351 0 0	2,944 14 2	—	406 5 10
Medical Department	2,928 0 0	2,734 12 5	—	193 7 7
Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,425 0 0	3,312 6 8	887 6 8	—
Sanitary	813 0 0	790 2 4	—	22 17 8
Ecclesiastical	711 0 0	681 16 0	—	29 4 0
Education	1,580 0 0	1,749 4 4	169 4 4	—
Transport	3,500 0 0	2,655 11 5	—	844 8 7
Miscellaneous Services	3,269 0 0	4,012 16 3	743 16 3	—
Post Office	1,381 0 0	1,382 9 0	1 9 0	—
Colonial Surveyor's Department	574 0 0	516 0 11	—	57 19 1
Public Works, Extraordinary	370 0 0	1,920 18 3	1,550 18 3	—
Do. Recurrent	2,000 0 0	3,026 8 1	1,026 8 1	—
Colonial Steamer	3,650 0 0	3,119 2 5	—	530 17 7
Total	73,200 0 0	77,965 4 5	11,910 17 8	7,145 13 3

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years were as under :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1887 - - - -	60,637	58,334
1888 - - - -	63,035	63,288
1889 - - - -	70,836	66,771
1890 - - - -	73,708	63,056
1891 - - - -	89,869	77,965

From the foregoing it will be observed that not only are the finances of the Colony steadily increasing, but also that very great care has been exercised over the expenditure, so as to ensure its being well within the income of the Colony, but I regret to say that this desirable state of affairs has been attained in a measure at the expense of the public buildings, about which I shall have something to say later on.

3.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The financial condition of the Colony for the past five years will be easily seen on reference to the following return :—

Year.	Excess of Assets.	Excess of Liabilities.
	£	£
1887 - - - -	—	42,538
1888 - - - -	—	40,693
1889 - - - -	—	33,101
1890 - - -	—	19,374
1891 - - - -	1,160	—

which shows that the Colony has, after many years of debt, at last been able to show a surplus of 1,160*l*. over its liabilities, which is not only very satisfactory but points to a general healthy condition in the present state of affairs.

4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

This has been reduced from 58,454*l*. to 50,000*l*., raised in 1871–3 for the construction of Public Works, to be repaid in 1896–8.

The sinking fund for its redemption amounted to 30,934*l.* on the 31st December 1891. The balance, 8,000*l.*, of the loan from the Imperial Government in 1877, and 454*l.* excess over Imperial Grant for mission to Almami Samodu in 1888, were paid off in October, by direction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, to meet which a loan was obtained of 6,500*l.*, of which 3,500*l.* was outstanding at the end of 1891. As the excess of assets over liabilities was 1,160*l.*, the Colony can no longer be considered to be in debt.

5.—MUNICIPALITIES.

No municipality or any other local body invested with authority exists in the Colony. But in every probability a bill entitled the "Municipal Ordinance" will in the course of a few months be introduced into the Legislative Council.

The strong objection to such a measure on the part of the community at large has hitherto been on account of an idea which became fixed in the minds of the natives that it was only another way of reimposing the "House and Land Tax," but there is now, I am glad to say, a general feeling in favour of such legislation, and the people are willing to contribute towards the upkeep of local institutions and interest themselves in local matters. I have more than once heard it said by men of good position that the people are willing to pay anything, but do not call it "House and Land Tax"; anything else and all will go well.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Imperial Government expended 60,349*l.* on account of the Military establishment here.

The amount paid by the Colony as allowance to the troops in lieu of exemption from Customs duties was 517*l.*

The troops at this station consist of a battalion of the West India Regiment, one company, native, and a detachment, European, of the Royal Artillery, a detachment of the Royal Engineers and Commissariat and Ordnance Departments.

Freetown is a naval depôt and coaling station.

A police force was organised in 1890 for service both within and without the Colony, but more especially for the protection of the frontier, the cost of which amounted to 8,283*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* in 1891. The Police are armed with Snider rifles and swords.

There is no Militia force.

7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The actual expenditure on Public Works amounted to 4,947*l.* in 1891 as against 1,972*l.* in 1890.

Sierra Leone.
1891.

The principal works undertaken were new Government offices, a sea-wall 900 feet long, and a Public Hospital at Bonthe, Frontier Police barracks, and rifle range at Bendu, both places being in the Sherbro district.

General repairs were effected to some of the Government buildings and bridges in Freetown and the out-stations, but I regret to observe that all the public buildings are in a very dilapidated condition; some of them require to be rebuilt, and it is to be hoped that the financial condition of the Colony will soon warrant a few of them at least being taken in hand, as it is throwing away money to spend it on constant patching.

8.—Legislation.

The under-mentioned Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year 1890 beyond the Expenditure authorised by law.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the Colony of Sierra Leone the necessary power for the detention and deportation of Mormoh Darwah as a political prisoner.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the Colony of Sierra Leone the necessary power for the detention of Santiggy Karay as a politic alprisoner.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to authorise and provide for the removal of insane persons from the Colony of the Gambia to the Colony of Sierra Leone.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to amend the Law with reference to the personation of Public Officers and others having authority from the Government.

No. 6.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Education Ordinance, 1882."

No. 7.—An Ordinance to regulate the sale and use of Arms and Ammunition in the Colony of Sierra Leone.

No. 8.—An Ordinance to amend the "Sierra Leone Customs Ordinance, 1880."

No. 9.—An Ordinance to amend the Law with reference to the personation of Public Officers and others having authority from the Government.

No. 10.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1892.

No. 11.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Small Penalties.

No. 12.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Sierra Leone Sanitary Ordinance, 1879."

9.—Councils and Assemblies.

Executive Council.

Major S. G. Fairtlough and Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Maltby, of the Royal Artillery and the West India Regiment respectively, became members on assuming command of the troops in the Colony at different periods, and Mr. C. B. Mitford on his appointment as Colonial Treasurer.

Legislative Council.

The members of the Executive Council being also members of the Legislative Council, the foregoing changes equally apply to this Board.

Mr. S. Boyle, an unofficial member, was ill the whole of the year, and Mr. S. Lewis, another unofficial member, was absent from the Colony for a few months in the early portion of the year.

Board of Education.

The changes among official members were the same as in the Executive Council. The Rev. J. C. May, an unofficial member, who had been absent on leave to England from 1st June 1890 returned to the Colony on 1st January and resumed his seat on the Board.

10.—Civil Establishment.

His Excellency Sir J. S. Hay, K.C.M.G., proceeded to England on 21st April 1891 on leave of absence and was subsequently appointed Governor of Barbados. Major J. J. Crooks, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from the above date up to the end of the year.

Colonial Secretariat.

Mr. H. Higgins, Colonial Secretary, was, whilst on leave of absence in England, appointed Commissioner of Turks Island, and the vacancy thus created was filled by the promotion of Major J. J. Crooks, from the office of Treasurer to that of Colonial Secretary, from 28th January.

Districts.

Mr. C. H. H. Moseley, Civil Commandant of the Sherbro District, was appointed Colonial Treasurer of the Gambia, on 13th March 1891, and Mr. S. M. Bennett, Assistant Colonial Treasurer, succeeded him as acting Civil Commandant until 3rd December, when Mr. G. H. Garrett, Travelling Commissioner, was appointed manager of the district.

Native Affairs Department.

Mr. J. C. E. Parkes, superintendent, was granted six months leave of absence to England from 11th May, and during his absence, the department was successively in charge of Mr. G. H. Garrett, Major A. McD. Moore, and Captain E. A. W. Lendy.

Colonial Treasury.

Mr. C. B. Mitford, Treasurer of the Gambia, was appointed Colonial Treasurer from 10th February 1891, vice Major J. J. Crooks.

Customs Department.

Mr. C. B. Mitford was in charge of the Customs from 23rd May to 22nd July, in addition to his own duties as Treasurer, during the illness of Mr. M. V. D. Stuart. Mr. W. J. P. Elliott, Treasurer of Lagos, was appointed Collector of Customs of the Colony, from 22nd July, vice Mr. M. V. D. Stuart, who was retired on pension. Mr. Elliott proceeded on leave of absence for six months and ten days to England on 24th December, when Mr. E. Faulkner, Assistant Colonial Secretary, was appointed Acting Collector.

Legal Departments.

The Chief Justice, Mr. W. H. Quayle Jones, was on leave of absence to England from 6th May to 20th September, during which time Mr. J. Bayldon Walker, Barrister-at-Law, performed the duties of a judge of the Supreme Court. Mr. R. Brett, Master of the Supreme Court and Registrar-General, was granted leave of absence to England, from 29th January to 11th May, during which time Mr. J. A. M'Carthy, Queen's Advocate, acted as Registrar-General, and Mr. W. A. Valantin, Deputy Sheriff, acted as Master of the Supreme Court. Mr. Brett resigned his appointment on 12th August, when the same arrangements were made as those when he was on leave of absence.

Mr. W. M. Huggins, Manager and Coroner of the Eastern District, acted as Police Magistrate and Coroner for the Police District of Freetown, from 28th November to the end of the year, vice Mr. J. Bayldon Walker, invalided to the Islands and subsequently to England.

SIERRA LEONE. 1891.

Police.

Major A. McD. Moore, Inspector General, was on leave of absence to England from 16th June to 23rd December 1891, his duties being performed during that time by Lieutenant Lendy.

Lieutenant E. A. W. Lendy, D.S.O., of the 2nd Battalion the West India Regiment, Captain A. D. Campbell, late 2nd Battalion the Connaught Rangers, and Captain F. P. Cockburn (2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment), Inspector of the Gold Coast Constabulary, were appointed Inspectors of Police respectively from 7th February, 28th March, and 24th November 1891.

Captain Soden's appointment as an Inspector was terminated on the 13th of October.

Prisons Department.

Mr. R. Wade, Keeper of the Gaol in Freetown, who had been invalided to England, from 20th December 1890, retired on a pension, from 1st March 1891. Sub-Inspector N. H. Sawyerr of the Police Force acted as Keeper up to 11th November 1891, when Mr. F. J. Mizon, the newly appointed Keeper of the Gaol, arrived from England and assumed the duties of his office.

Medical Department.

Dr. D. P. Ross, C.M.G., Colonial Surgeon, was granted six months leave to England, from 24th July, and during his absence Dr. W. Renner, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, acted for him, and Dr. J. N. Paris was employed temporarily as Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

11.—PENSIONS.

The following table shows the amounts paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances during the past five year: —

Year.	Paid in England.	Paid in the Colony.	Total.
	£	£	£
1887 - - -	1,832	693	2,525
1888 - - -	1,832	669	2,50[illegible]
1889 - - -	1,940	1,164	3,[illegible]
1890 - - -	1,743	1,269	3,012
1891 - - -	1,563	1,491	3,054

Fifteen new names were added to the pension list in 1891, the principal ones were Mr. R. Wade, 58*l*., and Mr. M. V. D. Stuart, 196*l*. per annum. Of the five pensioners who died during the year, those deserving of mention were Mr. T. G. Lawson, on the 13th June, who was in receipt of 10*l*. per annum, and Mr. A. B. Martyn, on 22nd December, who was receiving 68*l*. per annum.

The total amount sanctioned as gratuities to retiring public servants, chiefly policemen, who were not entitled to pension on account of the shortness of the period of their services, was 73*l*. 12*s*. 9*d*.

12.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

The Consular representative of foreign countries were :—

Denmark.—T. S. Buckley.

France.—G. A. Mondehare.

Germany.—P. Lemberg.

Portugal.—P. Lemberg.

Greece.—A. G. Ceffala.

Italy.—G. B. Zochonis.

Liberia.—A. E. Boyle.

The Netherlands and Spain.—W. Ellis.

Sweden and Norway.—H. Burnett.

United States of America.—B. Bowser.

13.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

A census was taken on 5th April 1891, in such parts of the Colony in which it was found practicable to do so, and the area was the same as that of 1881. The results have been published in a special report.

The following comparative statement shows the population in 1871, 1881 and 1891 :—

Year.	White.		Black.			Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1871 -	76	31	18,455	18,527	36,982	18,531	18,558	37,039
1881 -	237	34	30,964	29,511	60,475	31,201	29,345	60,546
1891 -	191	33	39,684	34,927	74,611	39,875	34,960	74,835

SIERRA LEONE.
1891.

In the census returns for 1891 the various occupations of the inhabitants were distinguished as follows:—

Occupation.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Government employés - - -	1,160	6	1,176
Ministers of religion, members of legal and medical professions - -	112	2	114
Merchants, traders and their clerks -	2,090	9,941	12,031
Farmers, farm labourers and market people - - - -	10,445	6,351	16,796
Grummettas, labourers and house servants	4,910	836	5,746
Fishermen and seamen - - -	3,326	—	3,326
Mechanics, butchers, bakers, &c. -	3,614	13	3,627
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,640	3,557	5,197
Transient traders and strangers -	1,020	599	1,619
School children - -	7,125	6,944	14,069
Infants - - - - - -	2,235	2,323	4,558
No occupation - - - - -	2,198	4,378	6,576
Total - -	39,875	34,960	74,835

The races were divided into white and black. The nationalities of the white population are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Male.	Female.	Total.
English - - - -	106	14	120
Welsh - - - - -	4	—	4
Scotch - - - - -	7	4	11
Irish - - - - -	22	9	31
American - - - -	5	2	7
French - - - - -	24	2	26
German - - - -	2	—	2
Italian - - - - -	5	2	7
Swiss - - - - -	6	—	6
Portuguese - - - -	2	—	2
Swedish - - - -	1	—	1
Norwegian - - - -	2	—	2
Greek - - - - -	2	—	2
Spaniard - - - -	1	—	1
Canadian - - - -	1	—	1
Maltese - - - - -	1	—	1
Total - - -	191	33	224

SIERRA LEONE.
1891.

The nationalities of the black inhabitants will be found fully classified in the under-mentioned return:—

Nationality.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Liberated Africans and their descendants	15,002	18,210	33,212
Natives, *i.e.*, children of strange tribes born in Sierra Leone - -	3,618	3,111	6,729
Mandingoes - - - -	1,094	315	1,409
Timanees - - - -	4,323	2,751	7,074
Jolofs - - - - -	75	87	162
Baggas - - - - -	382	201	583
Mendis - - - - -	4,690	3,403	8,093
Sherbros - - - -	3,824	3,046	6,870
Gallinas - - - -	561	497	1,058
Limbas - - - -	800	283	1,083
Soosoos - - - -	1,554	1,224	2,778
Fulahs - - - - -	222	150	372
Loccos - - - - -	483	264	747
Serrakulies - - - -	87	47	134
Bulloms - - - -	118	102	220
Kroomen - - - -	1,088	239	1,327
West Indians - - - -	727	136	863
Miscellaneous, *i.e.*, any tribe not herein detailed - - - -	1,036	861	1,897
Total - - -	39,684	34,927	74,611

There are more males than females in Sierra Leone, a fact revealed by the census taken in 1881 and again in 1891.

On the 31st December the population of the census area was estimated to be 76,000, and the unenumerated portions of the Colony are supposed to contain 50,000 souls, making an approximate total of 126,000 persons, scattered over an area of about 4,000 square miles.

From the vital statistics furnished by the various district registrars, the total number of births and deaths registered during the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1887 - - - -	1,341	1,413
1888 - - - -	1,358	1,248
1889 - - - -	1,250	1,363
1890 - - - -	1,249	1,531
1891 - - - -	1,328	1,368

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The registration system here is not as perfect as it should be, owing partly to difficulties which are always to be found in partially civilized communities. The untutored native seldom complies with the law on the subject and it is not generally easy to compel him to do so.

The total number of marriages, reckoned from the returns sent in by the different Christian denominations, in the Colony in 1891 was 312.

14.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

The various Christian sects, the number of their places of worship and their adherents in Sierra Leone are shown in the following return:—

Denomination.	Places of Worship.	Members generally attending.
Church of England - - -	55	11,988
Roman Catholic - - -	3	380
Wesleyan - - - -	37	8,360
Free Church Methodist - -	14	2,585
American or Maroon Methodist -	1	250
African M. E. Church of America -	3	720
American Mendi Mission or United Brethren in Christ - -	14	1,032
Huntingdonian - - -	11	1,193
Baptist - - - -	3	306
Total - -	141	26,814

The census returns for 1891 showed that the number of persons professing Christianity was 41,361.

Mohammedanism is on the increase, the followers of the prophet numbering one tenth of the population.

The Church of England is the only one receiving State aid. All the others are either self-supporting or aided by missionary societies. Only the Bishop of the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic priests, and the superintendents of the Wesleyan and the Free Church Methodists are Europeans; all the other ministers of religion are Africans.

15.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools examined, the number of pupils on the rolls, and the amount of Government grants awarded in the last five years were:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.			Government Grants.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	£
1887 -	61	4,141	4,023	8,164	682
1888 -	67	4,338	4,205	8,543	762
1889 -	77	4,723	4,499	9,222	806
1890 -	73	4,662	4,279	8,941	891
1891 -	71	4,581	4,237	8,818	812

From the foregoing statement, it will be observed with regret that the number of pupils is still on the decrease, the total number in 1891 being less than that in 1889 by 404. The Inspector of Schools in his report for 1891 says:—"There is "even on last year a decrease in both average and ordinary "attendances, there are also fewer presented in the standards, "with, of course, the very probable result of fewer passes. On "the whole I do not see that at present any increase is fore-"shadowed in any way. Whether this be due to (1) migration "to various parts of the Coast or Colony, or (2) due to the many "private adventure schools cropping up, I cannot say."

Technical or industrial education has made no progress. Besides the above, there were, in 1891, 23 elementary schools with 1,592 pupils which were below the Government standard.

The school at the village of Charlotte for liberated African children, which was supported jointly by the Imperial and Colonial Governments, was closed on 31st December.

There are six high schools in Freetown, three for boys and three for girls, with a total attendance of 334 boys and 231 girls, during the year.

Fourah Bay College, on the outskirts of Freetown, belongs to and is supported by the Church Missionary Society, and by being affiliated to the University of Durham, its students are eligible to take degrees in arts, theology, &c.

Two new journals were started during the year, "The Trader" and "Saturday Ho," but the former became defunct before the close of the year. Besides these, there were two weekly newspapers, "The Weekly News" and "The Sierra Leone Times," published in Freetown, and a fortnightly one, "The Early Dawn," at Sherbro.

SIERRA LEONE.
1891.

16.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The under mentioned tables give the total value and the direction of the trade of the Colony and the customs duty realised during the last five years.

Imports.

Year.	Value of Imports from			Total Value.	Customs Duty.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1887 - - - -	247,764	1,923	58,351	308,038	33,824
1888 - - - -	190,529	1,211	58,407	250,147	43,742
1889 - - - -	210,800	1,110	65,871	277,781	49,034
1890 - - - -	295,012	1,627	93,269	389,908	53,810
1891 - - - -	345,031	2,145	106,202	453,378	69,999

Of the total value of imports in 1891, 453,378*l.*, that entered for home consumption was 298,137*l.*, merchandise warehoused amounted to 146,553*l.*, and 8,688*l.* worth of goods was transhipped. The increase in the value of importations in 1891 over those of 1890 was 63,470*l.* The principal articles imported were cotton goods, 139,954*l.*, spirits, 27,991*l.*, haberdashery, 23,679*l.*, tobacco, 22,253*l.* The value of imports from the United Kingdom was 34 times that from France and 10 times that from Germany.

Exports.

Year.	Value of Exports to			Total Value.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	£	£
1887 - - - - -	120,188	15,695	197,634	333,517
1888 - - - - -	166,569	17,651	154,823	339,043
1889 - - - - -	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890 - - - - -	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891 - - - - -	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656

The total value of African produce exported in 1891 was 329,751*l.*, and that of European goods, 137,905*l.* The increase in the exports of 1891 over those of 1890 was 128,337*l.*, which was more than the total exports to the United Kingdom in 1887.

Articles produced or manufactured in and exported from the Colony in 1891 were valued at 6,177*l.*, against 5,394*l.* in the previous year.

The chief exports were palm kernels, 157,457*l.*, rubber, 77,738*l.*, kola nuts, 43,004*l.*, specie, 36,231*l.*, palm oil, 14,370*l.*, gum copal, 9,241*l.*, rice, 8,291*l.*, hides, 7,112*l.* The value of exports from the Colony to the United Kingdom in 1891 was four times that to France, five times that to Germany, and 25 times that to the United States of America.

The figures in the foregoing tables afford tangible evidence that the trade of the Colony is expanding, a satisfactory feature in a community in which about one sixth of the resident inhabitants is engaged in trading. There is reason, however, to assume that the large importations of recent years are not altogether the outcome of a *bonâ fide* increased local consumption, so far as the Colony itself is concerned, as nearly one half of the imports find their way into the interior countries, and should more properly be classified as transit trade, the few ports in the Colony being mere commercial depôts, where are landed the merchandise brought by vessels from the different European countries and from America, whose manufactures find a ready market in this part of Western Africa. Therefore, it is decidedly apparent that the stability of the trade of Sierra Leone rests entirely on the pacification of the producing areas which border on the confines of our jurisdiction.

17.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last five years were:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1887 - - - -	633	174,915	653	185,722	1,286	360,637
1888 - - - -	702	255,330	703	262,351	1,405	517,681
1889 - - - -	724	291,239	726	297,932	1,450	589,171
1890 - - - -	868	342,591	854	336,918	1,722	679,509
1891 - - - -	899	425,853	870	416,670	1,769	842,523

Freetown has deservedly become noted as an important coaling station and as it possesses an admirable and safe harbour, the best in West Africa, a good provision market and a plentiful supply of pure drinking water, it is much frequented by ships, as such supplies cannot be so readily obtained elsewhere on the coast.

SIERRA LEONE. 1891.

18.—AGRICULTURE.

There has been no improvement under this head, and I am afraid that this unfortunate state of affairs will continue, as the natives have no ambition in this direction beyond planting their own local vegetables, although the Colony possesses every inducement for the cultivation of cacao, sugar, coffee, nutmegs, and a variety of other tropical plants.

19.—MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

No manufactures have been started during the year and no mines exist in the Colony.

20.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The following table gives the number of prisoners committed to and received in the prisons of the Colony during the past five years:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1887 - - - -	904	89	993
1888 - - - -	842	75	925*
1889 - - - -	1,073	64	1,141†
1890 - - - -	745	52	797
1891 - - - -	806	59	865

21.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following return shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Offences.	No. of Persons apprehended.	No. of Summary Convictions.	No. of Supreme Court Convictions.	Acquittals.
1887 - -	1,752	1,956	1,050	106	291‡
1888 - -	1,995	2,327	1,318	66	226‡
1889 - -	2,158	2,487	1,409	66	310‡
1890 - -	1,753	1,973	920	63	345‡
1891 - -	1,914	2,095	1,054	54	355‡

* Including eight juveniles. † Including four juveniles.

‡ Exclusive of cases that fell through for want of prosecution.

There have been more crimes in 1891 than in 1890.

The Queen's Advocate, in his report on the Criminal Statistics Return of 1891, says:—

"I regret to observe that crime is on the increase, the number of reported offences being 1,914, as against 1,753 for the year 1890, or an increase of 8·17 per cent. . . .

"The total number of offenders brought before the inferior courts is 2,095, or 2·8 per cent. of the population of the Colony. Of these, 1,133, or 1·5 per cent., were convicted."

Three cases of murder were committed to the Supreme Court. Larceny was the prevailing offence.

22.—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals, and the number of deaths for the past five years were as under:—

Year.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1887 - - - -	565	102
1888 - - - -	701	103
1889 - - - -	702	135
1890 - - - -	942	169
1891 - - - -	946	147

23.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The following comparative table gives the total admissions, discharges and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Deaths.
1887 - - - -	20	4	7
1888 - - - -	14	5	9
1889 - - - -	17	1	10
1890 - - - -	20	9	3
1891 - - - -	20	—	14

There is only one asylum in the Colony, and it is situated at Kissy, about three miles from Freetown. The total number of

Sierra Leone.
1891.

insane persons in Sierra Leone in 1891 was calculated to be 132, equal to ·173 per cent. of the population.

The Colonial Surgeon, in his annual report for 1891, states: "The public health of the Colony during the year was satis-" factory, though there were several cases of 'Influenza' during the " last half of the year. The usual types of intermittent and " remittent fevers prevailed, as well as other cases of zymotic " disease. There were 76 cases of small-pox treated in the " hospital, most of which were imported here in the steamers " arriving from St. Paul de Loando, and the other cases found " their way to Freetown from the interior. Vaccination was carried " on in and around Freetown during the latter part of the year " in consequence of small-pox prevailing in the country im-" mediately to the north of the Colony. The total number of " successful cases performed during the year being 1,596."

24.—Saving Banks.

The Treasury Savings Bank, which was established in 1882, still continues to find favour in the sight of the public, the amounts deposited having steadily increased with each succeeding year, notwithstanding the West African Bank.

The following table shows the number of depositors and amount due to them during the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount due Depositors.
		£
1887 - - - -	501	9,330
1888 - - - -	697	11,929
1889 - - - -	904	14,179
1890 - - - -	1,120	16,485
1891 - - - -	1,460	22,590

from which it will be seen that the business is increasing in a most satisfactory manner, so much so that it was being considered in 1891 whether a branch should not be established at Sherbro.

The total amount invested at end of 1891 was 20,215*l.*

The minimum deposit receivable is one shilling, but no depositor is allowed to deposit more than 130*l.* within a year nor to have more than 500*l.*, exclusive of interest, in the bank. Interest is allowed at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

25.—Government Houses.

Government House, Fort Thornton, Freetown; Heddle's Cottage, on the summit of one of the numerous hills near the city; and the Governor's House at Cape Sierra Leone, are

SIERRA LEONE.
1891.

all in a very bad state of repair, and are more or less unfit for habitation.

26.—RAILWAYS, CANALS, AND ROADS.

There are no railways or inland telegraphs. Canals are quite unnecessary, as the Colony is a network of rivers and creeks, by means of which the internal communication is mainly carried on.

The roads are not so good as they might be, but some are in a fair state of repair, whilst others are anything but what could be desired, especially those leading to the mountain districts.

The absence of good bridges is also a drawback to travelling in many parts of the peninsula.

The construction of a light railway from Freetown to Songo Town and thence to the interior would be beneficial to trade.

27.—POST AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS.

The total amount of postal matter which passed through the Postal Department during the past four years is shown below, no account having been made for 1887:—

Year.	Number of Letters, Postcards, Parcels, &c. received and sent.
1888 - - - -	210,581
1889 - - - -	213,041
1890 - - - -	234,871
1891 - - -	274,117

As regards the inland postal service of the Colony, although some efforts have recently been made for its improvement, and an Ordinance passed in 1890 on the subject, yet it cannot be said to be in perfect working order, but as a scheme is now under consideration it is hoped that the service will soon be placed on a satisfactory basis.

The following table shows the value of money orders received in and sent from the Post Office for the last five years:—

Year.	Received.	Sent.	Total.
	£	£	£
1887 - - -	9,885	22,506	32,391
1888 - - -	11,296	21,153	32,749
1889 - - -	10,117	18,131	28,258
1890 - - -	9,617	14,930	24,547
1891 - - -	12,415	14,679	27,094

There are no internal telegraphs, hence no statistics furnished. I consider it would be of much utility to the community in general if the principal towns in the districts were placed in telegraphic communication with Freetown, the seat of Government.

General Remarks.

In reviewing the past year, there have not been many incidents that might be considered as strikingly remarkable in the annals of Sierra Leone. But a few events have occurred which unquestionably deserve to be recorded.

A reduction from *4d.* to *2½d.* per half ounce on postage between the United Kingdom and Sierra Leone came into operation from 1st January.

A syndicate was formed in England in the early portion of the year to construct docks in Freetown, and in August, Mr. Stephens, an engineer, arrived here and made an extensive survey, not only for the docks but also, it is understood, for a light railway from headquarters into the Kwaia district.

The inland postal service of the Colony was made the subject of inquiry by a committee appointed by the Governor in 1891, and the results of their deliberations have been that the postal staff of the Colony should be increased and a new Post Office erected in Freetown.

For the construction of the Congo Free State Railway, large numbers of the labouring classes were employed from Sierra Leone and taken to that State, but on account of the complaints made by them of alleged ill-treatment the matter was brought to the notice of the Government and much interest was taken in the subject by the local press.

The rainfall for the year as taken at the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, was 133·61 inches as against 121·24 inches in 1890.

The delimitation of the northern boundary of the Colony, as settled by the agreement between Great Britain and France, which was signed at Paris in 1889, has been looked forward to since that year, as it was a question of great importance to the Colony.

The boundary commissioner appointed by Great Britain was Captain A. H. Kenney, R.E., and those by France were Monsieur F. Lamadon, Administrator of the "Rivières du Sud," Lieutenant Bransoulié and Docteur Bonnefoy. The French Commissioners arrived in Freetown on 28th November and the British Commissioner on the 2nd December. They embarked from Freetown for Mahaila, the scene of the commencement of their labours, on 15th December.

It is satisfactory to take a retrospect of the progress of events during the past quinquennial period of the history of Sierra Leone as evidenced by the foregoing statistical tables. Some few years ago the Colony was on the verge of bankruptcy, but now, owing

SIERRA LEONE. 1891.

to careful political and financial administration, Sierra Leone has at last, I trust, entered an entirely new era, and will become in the not distant future one of the many prosperous possessions which constitute the British Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BURNEY MITFORD,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Sierra Leone.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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(For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 64.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1894.

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1894.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other Reports, relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
61	Natal - - - - - -	1891–92
62	Basutoland - - - - -	"
63	St. Helena - - - - -	1891
64	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
65	Jamaica - - - - - -	1891–92
66	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	1891
67	Newfoundland - - - - -	"
68	British New Guinea - - - -	1891–92
69	Victoria - - - - - -	1891
70	Rodrigues - - - - - -	"
71	Bermuda - - - - - -	1892
72	Fiji - - - - - -	1891
73	British Honduras - - - - -	"
74	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	1892
75	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
76	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
77	Leeward Islands - - - - -	"
78	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
79	Malta - - - - - -	"
80	Gambia - - - - - -	"
81	Straits Settlements - - - -	"
82	Grenada - - - - - -	"
83	Barbados - - - - - -	"
84	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
85	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
86	St. Lucia - - - - - -	"
87	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
88	Gold Coast - - - - -	"
89	Basutoland - - - - - -	1892–93
90	Ceylon - - - - - -	1892
91	Zululand - - - - - -	"
92	Mauritius - - - - - -	"
93	Labuan - - - - - -	"
94	British Honduras - - - - -	"
95	Lagos - - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.

No. 96.

SIERRA LEONE.

Sierra Leone. 1892.

[For Report for 1891 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 64.]

Acting Governor CROOKS to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Freetown, Sierra Leone,
October 21, 1893.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1892.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1892.

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

The only change under the head is "The Firearms, Ammunition and Gunpowder Ordinance, 1892," which has caused a considerable decrease in the import duty on arms and ammunition as compared with the previous year. The said Ordinance gives effect to Articles 8 to 10 of the General Act of the Brussels Conference, 1890.

The tariff consists of an *ad valorem* duty of 7½ per cent. and certain specific duties, which are moderate. Articles imported for agricultural, manufacturing, and educational purposes, and coals are exempted from duty.

There is no export duty, nor is there any direct taxation.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The total revenue, including the Parliamentary Grant in Aid of the colonial steamer, was 86,866*l.*, showing an increase of 2,266*l.* on the estimated amount, 84,600*l.*

SIERRA LEONE.
1892.

The following statement compares the estimated and actual receipts for the year 1892 :—

Heads of Receipts.	Amount estimated.	Total Receipts.	More than estimated.	Less than estimated.
	£	£	£	£
Customs - - - - - -	67,568	69,410	1,842	—
Port, Harbour, and Light Dues -	3,000	2,906	—	94
Licences, Excise, &c. - - -	4,928	5,956	1,028	—
Fees of Court or Office - - Payments for Specific Services -	3,807	3,898	91	—
Post Office - - - - -	840	955	115	—
Rents of Government Property -	152	256	104	—
Interest - - - - - -	1,200	1,609	409	—
Miscellaneous Receipts - -	135	318	183	—
Land Sales - - - - -	70	21	—	49
Parliamentary Grant for Colonial Steamer - - - - -	2,900	1,537	—	1,363
Total - - -	84,600	86,866	3,772	1,506

Net increase for 1892, 2,266*l.*

Four-fifths of the revenue is derivable from Customs duties on articles imported into the Colony. The increase in the Customs receipts is due to improved trade; that under "Licences" to larger number of spirit licences issued and a greater sale of Revenue Stamps.

The decrease under the head of "Colonial Steamer" is due to the receipt of only 1,537*l.* of the Parliamentary grant for the year.

Comparative statement of the revenue for years 1891 and 1892 :—

Heads of Receipts.	Year 1891.	Year 1892.	Increase, 1892.	Decrease, 1892.
	£	£	£	£
Customs - - - - - -	70,000	69,410	—	590
Port, Harbour, and Light Dues -	2,998	2,906	—	92
Licences, Excise, &c. - - -	6,202	5,956	—	246
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements in aid - - -	4,988	3,898	—	1,090
Post Office - - - - -	820	955	135	—
Rents of Government Property -	157	256	99	—
Interest - - - - - -	1,078	1,609	531	—
Miscellaneous Receipts - -	417	318	—	99
Land Sales - - - - -	225	21	—	204
Parliamentary Grant for Colonial Steamer - - - - -	2,984	1,537	—	1,447
Total - -	89,869	86,866	765	3,768

Net decrease for 1892 = 3,003*l.*

The increase in "Interest" is owing to larger investments; the decrease in "Customs" is due to quarantine restrictions and the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance; in "Licences" to fewer Spirit Licences; in "Fees and Reimbursements in Aid" to alterations in Customs hours and discontinuance of aid from Imperial Government to Liberated African Department; in "Land Sales" to fewer sales, and in "Colonial Steamer" to six months' Parliamentary Grant only having been paid within the year.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure was 80,608*l.*, and the amount actually expended was 83,852*l.*, showing an excess over the estimates of 3,244*l.*

The following is the comparative table of estimated and actual expenditure for the year 1892:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount estimated.	Total Payments.	More than estimated.	Less than estimated.
	£	£	£	£
Charge for Public Debt	5,010	4,966	—	44
Pensions	3,000	2,985	—	15
Governor and Legislature	1,178	919	—	259
Colonial Secretary's Department	1,573	1,515	—	58
Provincial Administration	1,957	1,856	—	101
Native Affairs	4,538	3,832	—	706
Treasury	1,811	1,642	—	169
Customs Department	6,363	5,908	—	455
Audit Department	526	216	—	310
Port and Marine Department	822	712	—	110
egal Department	5,211	3,592	—	1,619
Police	17,663	15,874	—	1,789
Prisons	3,353	2,861	—	492
Medical Departments	3,037	2,843	—	194
Hospital and Dispensaries	3,175	3,194	19	—
Sanitary	1,218	786	—	432
Ecclesiastical	711	656	—	55
Education	1,721	1,443	—	278
Transport	3,500	7,003	3,503	—
Miscellaneous Services	3,545	4,245	700	—
ost Office	1,950	1,823	—	127
Colonial Surveyor's Department	600	568	—	32
Public Works, Extraordinary	1,496	2,760	1,264	—
Do. Recurrent	3,000	4,602	1,602	—
Colonial Steamer	3,650	7,051	3,401	—
Total	80,608	83,852	10,489	7,245

Net increase for 1892 = 3,244*l.*

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Comparative statement of the expenditure for years 1891 and 1892:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Year 1891.	Year 1892.	Increase, 1892.	Decrease, 1892.
	£	£	£	£
Charge for Public Debt	13,511	4,966	—	8,545
Pensions	3,054	2,985	—	69
Governor and Legislature	932	919	—	13
Colonial Secretary's Department	1,536	1,515	—	21
Provincial Administration	1,407	1,856	449	—
Native Affairs	3,683	3,832	149	—
Treasury	1,541	1,642	101	—
Customs Department	6,211	5,908	—	303
Audit Department	181	216	35	—
Port and Marine Department	656	712	56	—
Legal Department	3,568	3,592	24	—
Police	12,839	15,874	3,035	—
Prisons	2,945	2,861	—	84
Medical Departments	2,735	2,843	108	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	3,312	3,194	—	118
Sanitary	790	786	—	4
Ecclesiastical	682	656	—	26
Education	1,749	1,443	—	306
Transport	2,656	7,003	4,347	—
Miscellaneous Services	4,013	4,245	232	—
Post Office	1,382	1,823	441	—
Colonial Surveyor's Department	516	568	52	—
Public Works, Extraordinary	1,921	2,760	839	—
Do. Recurrent	3,026	4,602	1,576	—
Colonial Steamer	3,119	7,051	3,932	—
Total	77,965	83,852	15,376	9,489

Net increase for 1892 = 5,887*l.*

The excess of expenditure under "Transport" is owing to an expedition to Tambi, a mission to Falaba, and the Anglo-French Boundary Commission. Under "Miscellaneous Services" the excess is due to the extension of Inland Postal Service, printing telegrams, Census taking, and Customs seizures. Under "Public Works" the excess is due to repairs to Government House, Bonded Warehouse, and the Public Buildings generally, and the erection of new Customs Shed and Post Office in Freetown.

Under "Colonial Steamer" the excess is due to the vessel having been sent to England for extensive repairs.

The apparent excess under "Provincial Administration" is due to the office of manager, Sherbro district, having been filled up during the year.

Under "Police" the increase is due to the strength of the force having been increased.

Under "Post Office" the increase is due to the extension of postal system.

The decrease of expenditure under "Public Debt" is due to the payment in October 1891 of the balance, 8,000*l.*, of the loan from Imperial Government in 1877, and the excess, 454*l.*, over Imperial Grant for Mission to Almami Samadu in 1888.

The decrease under "Customs" is due to saving on salary of Collector until he took up his appointment on the termination of his leave.

The decrease under "Education" is due to the closing of Charlotte School for Liberated African Children on the 31st December 1891 and the death at Lagos, on 15th December 1892, of the Reverend Mr. Sunter, M.A., Inspector of Schools.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years were as under:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1888 - - - -	63,035	63,288
1889 - - - -	70,836	66,771
1890 - - - -	73,708	63,056
1891 - - - -	89,869	77,965
1892 - - - -	86,866	83,852

The decrease in revenue and also the increase in expenditure for 1892, as compared with year 1891, are fully accounted for above.

3.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The financial position of the Colony for the past five years may be seen from the following statement:—

Year.	Excess of Assets.	Excess of Liabilities.
	£	£
1888 - - - -	—	40,693
1889 - - - -	—	33,101
1890 - - - -	—	19,374
1891 - - - -	1,160	—
1892 - - - -	10,197	—

From the foregoing it will be observed that the Colony at the close of the year was in a better position by 9,037*l* than at the same period in 1891.

4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

This remains the same as at the close of the year 1891, viz., 50,000*l*., raised in 1871–73 for constructing Public Works, to be repaid in 1896–98.

The sinking fund for its redemption amounted to 34,118*l*. on 31st December 1892. When the liabilities are paid off in 1898, the Colony will be better off by 5,010*l*. per annum, the sum now set apart for payment of Sinking Fund and Interest on Debentures. This annual payment is a great drain, and although the Colony is at present in a position to redeem the Bonds, there is little likelihood that the holders would sell off at less than par, as they are guaranteed interest from Government Funds at the rate of 6*l*. per cent.

5.—MUNICIPALITY.

No municipality or any local body invested with authority exists in the Colony, but "An Ordinance to create the Town of "Freetown a Municipal City and to incorporate the inhabitants "thereof" was introduced into the Legislative Council and read a first time on the 25th August, a second time 13th September, and was under the consideration of the Committee of the Council during the remainder of the year. It passed the Council on 21st February of the present year, and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State has signified that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise her power of disallowance in respect thereof.

The Council is to consist of a Mayor and 15 Councillors, three of whom are to be appointed by the Governor and Executive Council; the others are to be elected.

As stated in my report on the Blue Book for 1890, "there is no "doubt that municipal government will be a great boon to Freetown by encouraging the community to interest themselves in "local matters, instead of relying as at present upon the Executive "Government to do everything, even to lighting the streets, "supplying water, and keeping the roads and markets in repair."

Freetown contains over 30,000 inhabitants.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

There is no contribution from the Colony, which is an important Coaling station, for the maintenance of the Military Establishment the entire expenditure of 67,368*l*. (local) being borne by the Imperial Government.

The garrison consists of a battalion of the West India Regiment, a European detachment of the Royal Artillery, Native Battery of West African Artillery, and a Native detachment of Fortress Engineers.

The troops receive an allowance, which amounted this year to 669*l.*, as compensation for Customs duties payable by them.

There is no Militia force. The Sierra Leone Royal Militia was disbanded in 1863, and since then no similar corps has been organised.

The Armed Police Force for frontier work consists of five European officers and 340 Native sub-officers and privates.

7.—Public Works.

The expenditure on Public Works, repairs to buildings, roads, streets and bridges for the past five years was as under :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1888	1,351
1889	1,725
1890	1,972
1891	4,947
1892	7,362

No public work of magnitude has been undertaken, but the increased expenditure was much needed, owing to the dilapidated condition of most of the public buildings. A new Post Office and Customs Shed were erected during the year, extensive repairs were effected at Government House, No. 2 Bonded Warehouse and the Kissy Lazaretto, and general repairs to the bridges in the districts and the buildings were carried out.

8.—Legislation.

The under-mentioned Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881."

No. 2.—An Ordinance to amend the Frontier Police Ordinance, 1890.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to regulate the importation into and the Storage and Disposal of Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder in the Colony of Sierra Leone.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881."

No. 5.—An Ordinance to repeal an Ordinance intituled "An "Ordinance to amend 'The Stamp Duty Ordinance, 1884'."

No. 6.—A Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year 1891 beyond the expenditure authorised by law.

No. 7.—An Ordinance to further amend "The Sierra Leone Sanitary Ordinance, 1879."

No. 8.—An Ordinance to regulate the law relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes.

No. 9.—An Ordinance to provide for the discipline of Members of the Frontier Police Force of the Colony of Sierra Leone while receiving instruction in the United Kingdom.

No. 10.—An Ordinance to amend the Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordinance, 1892 (No. 3).

No. 11.—An Ordinance to repeal Section IV. of "Sierra Leone Sanitary Ordinance, 1879," and make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 12.—An Ordinance to repeal Section I. of "The Sierra Leone Sanitary Amendment Ordinance, 1884" (No. 13 of 1884), and make other provision in lieu thereof.

No. 13.—An Ordinance to regulate the dispensing and sale of Drugs and Poisons in the Colony.

No. 14.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1893.

9.—COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

Executive Council.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Saunders and Colonel A. B. Ellis, of the West India Regiment, respectively became members on assuming command of the troops in the Colony, at different periods.

Dr. D. P. Ross, C.M.G., Colonial Surgeon, was appointed an additional Member of Council, and took the oaths of office on 2nd March.

Mr. A. Sharood as Acting Chief Justice, Mr. S. M. Bennett as Acting Colonial Treasurer, and Mr. J. B. Walker as Acting Queen's Advocate, also became Members on appointment to their respective offices.

Mr. S. Lewis, Barrister-at-Law, unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, was appointed an extraordinary Member for a short time.

Legislative Council.

The Members of the Executive Council being also Members of the Legislative Council, the foregoing changes apply equally to this Board. Mr. D. Jarrett was provisionally appointed an unofficial Member on 25th June. Mr. J. B. Walker, on ceasing to act as Queen's Advocate on the return of Mr. J. A. M'Carthy from leave, was on 22nd September appointed an extraordinary Member of the Council, in order to continue his charge of the Municipality Bill.

Mr. S. Boyle was ill the whole of the year, and Mr. T. J Sawyerr was absent on leave from March to the end of the year.

Board of Education.

The changes among Members of the Executive Council apply to this Board also.

The Reverend Metcalf Sunter, M.A., Inspector of Schools, died at Lagos on 15th December 1892. The deceased arrived in the Colony at the close of the year 1870 as principal of the Fourah Bay College, in which capacity he continued till December 1882, when he resigned to accept the appointment of Inspector of Schools for the West African Colonies. He was sometime Acting Colonial Chaplain.

During the absence on leave to England of Reverends D. Moore and W. Vivian, unofficial Members, the Reverends E. Leversuch and D. T. James were appointed to be acting Members in their stead respectively.

10.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor and Legislature.

Major J. J. Crooks, Colonial Secretary, administered the Government until 21st January, when he proceeded to England after two years' residential service. Sir William H. Quayle Jones, Chief Justice, administered the Government from 21st January to 16th May, when Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., the newly appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief, arrived in the Colony and assumed the administration of the Government. Captain C. H. Donovan, Army Service Corps, performed the duties of aide-de-camp from 21st January to 15th May, and Mr. E. J. Vavasour, that of Private Secretary from 16th May to end of the year.

Mr. J. W. Lewis, clerk of Legislative Council, was on leave of absence from 24th July to 23rd October, and Mr. T. Taylor acted for him.

Colonial Secretariat.

Major J. J. Crooks, Colonial Secretary, was on leave of absence from 21st January to 8th October, and during his absence Mr. C. B. Mitford, Colonial Treasurer, acted as Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Treasury.

Mr. C. B. Mitford, the Colonial Treasurer, was on leave of absence from 8th October, and during his absence Mr. S. M. Bennett, Assistant Colonial Treasurer, acted as Colonial Treasurer.

Customs Department.

Mr. E. Faulkner, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted as Collector of Customs until the return from leave of absence, 28th June, of Mr. Elliott, the Collector.

Legal Departments.

The Chief Justice, Sir W. H. Quayle Jones, administered the Government from 21st January to 15th May, and was on leave of absence from 23rd July to the end of the year.

Mr. A. Sharood arrived in the Colony 6th January, and assumed the duties of his office as Master of Supreme Court and Registrar General. He performed the duties of Deputy Judge from February to August and those of Chief Justice from the latter date to the end of the year.

Mr. W A. Valantin, Clerk to Chief Justice, acted as Master of Supreme Court from 1st to 5th January and 4th February to 31st December.

Mr. J. A. M'Carthy, Queen's Advocate, acted as Registrar General, 1st to 5th January and 30th January to 16th May. He was on leave of absence from 6th June to 20th September.

Mr. J. B. Walker, Police Magistrate, acted as Queen's Advocate from 7th June to 19th September.

Mr. W. M. Huggins, Manager of the Eastern District, acted as Police Magistrate and Coroner for the police district of Freetown, 1st January to 29th March. Mr. J. B. Walker returned from leave of absence 30th March.

Mr. A. Sharood, Master of Supreme Court, acted as Police Magistrate, 7th June to 4th August.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Saunders, the West India Regiment, acted as Police Magistrate from 5th August to 29th September.

Police.

Major A. McDonnell Moore, Inspector General of Police, left the Colony 6th September on appointment as Inspector General of Police, Mauritius.

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Captain E. A. W. Lendy, D.S.O., an Inspector of Police, was appointed Inspector General 8th December, vice Major Moore.

Mr. S. E. Johns arrived in the Colony 18th January, on appointment as Inspector of Police, and returned to England 26th December.

Prisons Department.

Mr. F. J. Mizon, Keeper of the Gaol, died on 6th February from influenza and hyperpyrexia after a very short illness. He had served only three months in the Colony.

Medical Department.

Dr. D. P. Ross, C.M.G., the Colonial Surgeon, was on leave of absence to 23rd February, and during his absence Dr. W. Renner, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, acted as Colonial Surgeon.

Dr. W. Renner was absent on leave from 16th June to 15th December.

Dr. J. N. Paris acted as an Assistant Colonial Surgeon during the absence on leave of Drs. Ross and Renner respectively.

Ecclesiastical Department.

Reverend J. E. Taylor, Assistant Colonial Chaplain, died of influenza and double pneumonia at Freetown on 11th February, after a service of six years. Reverend S. Spain, B.A., was appointed Acting Assistant Colonial Chaplain on 19th February, vice Reverend J. E. Taylor, deceased, and was on the 30th March appointed Colonial Chaplain by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

11.—PENSIONS.

The following table shows the amounts paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances during the past five years:—

Year.	Paid in England.	Paid in the Colony.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888 - - -	1,832	669	2,501
1889 - - -	1,940	1,164	3,104
1890 - - -	1,743	1,269	3,012
1891 - - -	1,563	1,491	3,054
1892 - - -	1,633	1,352	2,985

Seven names were added to the pension list in 1892, amount 62*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, and gratuities sanctioned, chiefly to Police Constables, amounting to 66*l.*

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The list was reduced by the death of the following persons receiving the amount specified against their names:—

	£	s.
Mrs. Smyth (Widow of Colonial Secretary) -	100	0
M. V. D. Stuart (Collector of Customs) - -	180	0
W. S. Davies (Warehouseman, Customs) - -	22	10
W. L. Dawson (Dispenser, Medical Department) -	9	4
S. J. Thomas (Under Gaoler) - - -	52	0
A. O. Walker (Overseer of Labourers, &c., Sherbro)	5	0

Mrs. Smyth was in receipt of pension for 32 years, and Mr. Stuart nine months only.

12.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

France and the United States of America were represented by Consuls from their respective Governments.

Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Liberia, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Norway, were represented by Trading Consular Officers.

13.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

A census was taken on 5th April 1891 in such parts of the Colony in which it was found practicable to do so, and the area was the same as that of 1881. The results have been published in a special report.

The following comparative statement shows the population in 1871, 1881, and 1891:—

Year.	White.		Black.			Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1871 -	76	31	18,455	18,527	36,982	18,531	18,558	37,039
1881 -	237	34	30,964	29,511	60,475	31,202	29,345	60,546
1891 -	191	33	39,684	34,927	74,611	39,875	34,960	74,835

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In the census returns for 1891 the various occupations of the inhabitants were distinguished as follows:—

Occupation.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Government employés - - -	1,160	16	1,176
Ministers of religion, members of legal and medical professions - -	112	2	114
Merchants, traders and their clerks -	2,090	9,941	12,031
Farmers, farm labourers and market people - - - -	10,445	6,351	16,796
Grumettas, labourers and house servants	4,910	836	5,746
Fishermen and seamen - - -	3,326	—	3,326
Mechanics, butchers, bakers, &c. -	3,614	13	3,627
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,640	3,557	5,197
Transient traders and strangers -	1,020	599	1,619
School children - - -	7,125	6,944	14,069
Infants - - - - -	2,235	2,323	4,558
No occupation - - - -	2,198	4,378	6,576
Total - -	39,875	34,960	74,835

The races were divided into white and black. The nationalities of the white population are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Male.	Female.	Total.
English - - - -	106	14	120
Welsh - - - - -	4	—	4
Scotch - - - - -	7	4	11
Irish - - - - -	22	9	31
American - - - -	5	2	7
French - - - - -	24	2	26
German - - - -	2	—	2
Italian - - - - -	5	2	7
Swiss - - - - -	6	—	6
Portuguese - - - -	2	—	2
Swedish - - - -	1	—	1
Norwegian - - - -	2	—	2
Greek - - - - -	2	—	2
Spaniard - - - -	1	—	1
Canadian - - - -	1	—	1
Maltese - - - -	1	—	1
Total - - -	191	33	224

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The nationalities of the black inhabitants will be found fully classified in the under-mentioned return :—

Nationality.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Liberated Africans and their descendants	15,002	18,210	33,212
Natives, *i.e.*, children of strange tribes born in Sierra Leone - -	3,618	3,111	6,729
Mandingoes - - - -	1,094	315	1,409
Timanees - - - -	4,323	2,751	7,074
Joloffs - - - - -	75	87	162
Baggas - - - - -	382	201	583
Mendis - - - - -	4,690	3,403	8,093
Sherbros - - - -	3,824	3,046	6,870
Gallinas - - - -	561	497	1,058
Limbas - - - -	800	283	1,083
Soosoos - - - -	1,554	1,224	2,778
Fulahs - - - - -	222	150	372
Loccos - - - - -	483	264	747
Serrakulies - - - -	87	47	134
Bulloms - - - -	118	102	220
Kroomen - - - -	1,088	239	1,327
West Indians - - - -	727	136	863
Miscellaneous, *i.e.*, any tribe not herein detailed - - - -	1,036	861	1,897
Total - - -	39,684	34,927	74,611

From the vital statistics furnished by the various district registrars, the total number of births and deaths registered during the past five years was as follows :—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1888 - - - -	1,358	1,248
1889 - - - -	1,250	1,363
1890 - - - -	1,249	1,531
1891 - - - -	1,328	1,368
1892 - - - -	1,210	1,413

The excess (203) of registered deaths over births is principally in Freetown. The Colonial Surgeon is unable to account for this excess beyond stating that it may be due to quackery and country medicine, judging from the large number (577) of uncertified deaths.

The insanitary domestic arrangements of Freetown no doubt contribute to the death-rate, and the registration system, so far as births are concerned, is, on account of local circumstances,

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defective. In the earlier years of Sierra Leone the colonists underwent great privations, which, according to medical reports, would be sufficient to cause disease even in the present day. It is said that the native, after adopting European habits and clothing, becomes more liable to disease and early death than while he remained in his original state.

The total number of marriages celebrated in the Colony by the different Christian denominations in 1892 was 325.

14.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

The various Christian sects, the number of their places of worship and their adherents in Sierra Leone are shown in the following return:—

Denomination.	Places of Worship.	Members generally attending.
Church of England - - -	57	Returns incomplete, only 25,290 shown.
Roman Catholic - - -	2	
Wesleyan - - - -	36	
Free Church Methodist - -	12	
American or Maroon Methodist -	1	
African M. E. Church of America -	3	
American Mendi Mission or United Brethren in Christ - -	7	
Huntingdonian - - -	9	
Baptist - - - -	3	
Total - -	130	

The Census Returns for 1891 showed that the number of persons professing Christianity was 41,361.

The Church of England is the only one receiving State aid. All the others are either self-supporting or aided by missionary societies. Only the Bishop of the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic priests, and the superintendents of the Wesleyan and the Free Church Methodists are European; all the other ministers of religion are Africans.

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15.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools examined, the number of pupils on the rolls, and the amount of Government grants awarded in the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.			Government Grants.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
					£
1888 -	67	4,338	4,205	8,543	762
1889 -	77	4,723	4,499	9,222	806
1890 -	73	4,662	4,279	8,941	891
1891 -	71	4,581	4,237	8,818	812
1892 -	72	4,382	4,144	8,526	711

The Inspector of Schools in his report for 1892 says:—"This
" year's figures, as compared with last year's, show a decrease of
" 292. This may, in some degree, be accounted for by the
" increase of "Adventure Schools," many of which have attained
" fairly considerable proportions and seem, some of them, to be
" inclined to ask for Government aid; at any rate, these seem to
" have drawn many from the Elementary Schools."

The Inspector points out that the felt want of the Colony is industrial teaching.

There are six high schools in Freetown, three for boys and three for girls, with a total attendance during the year under review of 308 boys and 192 girls.

Fourah Bay College, on the outskirts of Freetown, belongs to and is supported by the Church Missionary Society, and by being affiliated to the University of Durham, its students are eligible to take degrees in arts, theology, &c.

Two weekly newspapers were published in Freetown, and a fortnightly one at Sherbro.

16.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The under-mentioned tables give the total value and the direction of the trade of the Colony and the Customs duty realised during the last five years.

Imports.

Year.	Value of Imports from			Total Value.	Customs Duty.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1888	190,529	1,211	58,407	250,147	43,742
1889	210,800	1,110	65,871	277,781	49,034
1890	295,012	1,627	93,269	389,908	53,810
1891	345,031	2,145	106,202	453,378	69,999
1892	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117	69,405

The total value of imports for the year was 413,117*l.*, of these, 302,062*l.* were entered for home consumption and 111,055*l.* warehoused.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom was 332,198*l.*, or four-fifths of the whole.

The decrease of 594*l.* in Customs duty on goods imported, as compared with the previous year, is due to the passing of the Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordinance on 26th March and to Quarantine restrictions. The principal articles imported were cotton goods, spirits, haberdashery, tobacco, and hardware.

Exports.

Year.	Value of Exports to			Total Value.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	£	£
1888	166,569	17,651	154,823	339,043
1889	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656
1892	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451

The total value of African produce exported during the year was 304,406*l.*, and that of European goods withdrawn from the warehouse was 116,045*l.*

The decrease in the exports of 1892, as compared with the year 1891, is due to less produce being landed in Freetown through the compulsory diversion of trade from the Colony to foreign neighbouring places, from whence it is shipped direct to Europe.

The " Human Leopard " scare in the Imperi country possibly might have affected the palm kernel and oil industry.

The chief exports were palm kernels, rubber, kola nuts, palm oil, gum, ginger, rice, and hides.

17.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last five years were :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1888 - - - -	702	255,330	703	262,351	1,405	517,681
1889 - - - -	724	291,239	726	297,932	1,450	589,171
1890 - - - -	868	342,591	854	336,918	1,722	679,509
1891 - - - -	899	425,853	870	416,670	1,769	342,523
1892 - - - -	767	398,146	771	402,549	1,538	800,695

The falling off in shipping for 1892, as compared with the year 1891, is due to fewer vessels calling at Freetown for coals. Only two steamers of the " Prince " line entered the port during the year. In 1891 there were 24. The Quarantine restrictions were in force from 2nd September to 30th November; 43 steamers were placed in Quarantine during the year and 15 persons were detained in the Lazaretto.

The first commercial or cargo steamer which called at this port was in 1852, and shortly after two steamers called monthly from England. Now six steamers sail from Liverpool every month for West Africa, besides others from Bordeaux, Hamburg, Havre, Lisbon, and Marseilles.

18.—AGRICULTURE.

There has been no marked improvement under this head, and no land was purchased during the year.

A scheme, however, for the establishment of an Agricultural College which had been drawn up by Mr. G. F. Scott Elliot, who acted as botanist to the Boundary Commission; was laid before the Board of Education and the Legislative Council respectively in the early part of this year, and it was urged that if the finances of the Colony were sufficiently encouraging the sum of 380*l.* necessary to carry out the work for the first year should be duly provided in the estimates for 1894.

The site suggested lies on the hillside between Hastings and Charlotte.

There is no doubt that with time and patience, the land of the country could be made to yield very valuable products. Hitherto commerce has been the only means whereby any real effort has been made to enrich the Colony.

19.—MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FACTORIES.

None under this head.

20.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The following table gives the number of prisoners committed to and received in the prisons of the Colony during the past five years:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Juveniles.	Total.
1888 - -	842	75	8	925
1889 - -	1,073	64	4	1,141
1890 - -	745	52	—	797
1891 -	806	59	—	865
1892 -	706	37	9	752

21.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following return shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Offences.	No. of Persons apprehended.	No. of Summary Convictions.	No. of Supreme Court Convictions.	Acquittals.
1888 - -	1,995	2,327	1,318	66	226*
1889 - -	2,158	2,487	1,409	66	310*
1890 - -	1,753	1,973	920	63	345*
1891 - -	1,914	2,095	1,054	54	355*
1892 - -	1,695	1,945	928	62	433*

*Exclusive of cases that fell through for want of prosecution.

The Queen's Advocate, in his report on the Criminal Statistics Returns of 1892, says:—

"The returns for the year show a general diminution of crime in the Colony.

"The number of 'offences reported' is the lowest number for the past three years and may be due either to the vigilance or laxity of the police."

During the year eight persons were indicted for murder; of these four were convicted of the capital offence, one of manslaughter and three acquitted. The extreme penalty of the law was not carried out in respect of one of the offenders, whose sentence was commuted by the Governor-in-Council to life imprisonment.

SIERRA LEONE. 1892.

22.—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals and the number of deaths for the past five years were as under:—

Year.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1888 - - - -	701	103
1889 - - - -	702	135
1890 - - - -	942	169
1891 - - - -	946	147
1892 - - - -	1,188	164

The Colonial Surgeon in his annual report for 1892 states "The public health of the Colony was fairly satisfactory during "the year, especially among the European residents, and it is to be "remarked that the number of resident European women in Free-"town this year far exceeded that of previous years. The usual "malarial fevers prevailed and bowel complaints were common. "Very few cases of small-pox occurred (only 20)."

The 12 deaths registered among the Europeans are explained as follows:—

4 cases landed for burial from steamers in transit.
6 „ climatic fever, including three from the military.
1 „ influenza.
1 „ from effects of intemperance.

During the last half of the year, 43 cases of chicken-pox and 64 cases of Beri Beri appeared in the Gaol Hospital, Freetown, two cases of the latter proving fatal.

23.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The following comparative table gives the total admissions, discharges and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Deaths.
1888 - - - -	14	5	5
1889 - - - -	17	1	10
1890 - - - -	20	9	3
1891 - - - -	20	—	14
1892 - - - -	33	14	12

There is only one asylum in the Colony, and it receives lunatics from the Colonies of Gambia and Lagos as well. The building is situated at Kissy, about three miles from Freetown. The Medical Officer in his report for the year states that "the inmates "continue to enjoy themselves as hitherto, some find pleasure in "gardening, some in singing and composing songs, some in "drawing caricatures on the gravel, others in carrying on lively "and incessant conversations and arguments."

There were 86 inmates in the asylum at the end of the year.

24.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Besides the Government hospitals and asylum there are no almshouses or private charitable institutions in the Colony, excepting the Princess Christian Hospital, founded at the instance of Bishop Ingham and his wife, which is situated in Fourah Bay Road, on the grounds of Bishopscourt. Dr. Jackson is the sole medical officer in charge, assisted by three trained resident European nurses, and the hospital is under the management of a committee.

The Colonial Government votes 400*l.* annually towards the relief of the poor generally and the grant is distributed monthly by the Charity Commissioners.

25.—SAVINGS BANK.

The Treasury Savings Bank was established in January 1882. The number of depositors at the end of that year was 44. That its safety and convenience are much appreciated by the people is evident from the following table, which gives the number of depositors and amount due to them in the past five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount due to Depositors.
		£
1888 - - - -	697	11,929
1889 - - - -	904	14,179
1890 - - - -	1,120	16,485
1891 - - - -	1,460	22,590
1892 - - - -	1,729	26,817

Deposits are received from 1*s.* upwards, but no individual is allowed to deposit more than 130*l.* to his own account within a year, nor to have more than 500*l.*, exclusive of interest, in the bank.

The rate of interest is 2½ per cent. per annum, and the funds of the bank are invested in Government security.

A branch was opened at Bonthe, Sherbro', in July 1892.

26.—GOVERNMENT HOUSES.

Government House, Fort Thornton, Freetown, the residence of the Governor, is not in that condition in which it should be, but in all probability it may be required for military purposes ere long, and then it will be a favourable opportunity for erecting a suitable building.

Government House at Cape Sierra Leone, the Governor's sanitarium, is in a fair state of repair, but insufficiently furnished.

Heddle's Cottage, a sanitarium for officials on the hills near the city, is also in a fair state of repair.

27.—RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &c.

There are no railways or inland telegraphs in the Colony. The roads are bad, but steps will be taken to remedy this on the establishment of a municipality.

28.—POST AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS.

The total amount of postal matter which passed through the Postal Department during the past five years is shown below.

Year.	Number of Letters, Post Cards, Parcels, &c. received and sent.
1888 - - - -	210,581
1889 - - - -	213,041
1890 - - - -	234,871
1891 - - - -	274,117
1892 - - - -	302,228

The following table shows the value of money orders received in and sent from the Post Office for the last five years :—

Year.	Received.	Sent.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888 - - -	11,296	21,153	32,749
1889 - -	10,117	18,131	28,258
1890 - - -	9,617	14,930	24,547
1891 - - -	12,415	14,679	27,094
1892 - - -	7,779	25,597	33,396

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general condition of the Colony may be regarded as satisfactory.

The people are progressive, loyal and contented. The treaty Chiefs continue to be on friendly terms with the Government.

Extension of Colony.

Thirty years ago the Colony consisted of the peninsula only, with an area of 300 square miles. In 1862, British Kwaia and Sherbro, were added; in 1879, further territory in the Skarcies River was acquired, and in 1882 the seaboard as far as the Mannah River was annexed, so that the area of the Colony is now about 4,000 square miles. The Frontier Police keep watch within the British sphere of influence as far as Falaba, in the Soolimah country, some 200 miles N.E. of the peninsula.

Trade.

Statements are made from time to time that the trade of the Colony is diminishing, but these are not borne out by the Customs Returns. The amounts for 1892, it is true, fell short of those of the previous year, but 1891 was an exceptionally good year for Customs revenue, due in a great measure to the large importation of firearms and ammunition.

The fact is, the trade of Sierra Leone is not as it used to be. Much of the trade has fallen into the hands of natives and fortunes are far more hardly earned now than formerly.

The climate will always be a bar to extensive European enterprise, if it is to be conducted under European superintendence. Native traders hold their own, and they are not likely to suffer by the advent of the white man, as in other countries.

Chamber of Commerce.

A Chamber of Commerce for Sierra Leone, which, if properly managed, should be a useful medium between the Governor and the governed, was established in Freetown in June.

Monrovia.

In pursuance of instructions, the Administrator proceeded to Monrovia in the colonial steamer "Countess of Derby," on 1st January, accompanied by the Honourable J. A. M'Carthy, Queen's Advocate, to convey to the new President of the Republic of Liberia the congratulations of Her Majesty's Government upon his inauguration. The President expressed his great pleasure at this complimentary mission as a further proof of the deep interest taken by Her Majesty's Government and of its sympathy with the Republic. The Administrator and his suite were most cordially received and entertained in Liberia's capital, and I have every reason to believe that the visit will have a good effect in bringing the Republic into closer union with this Colony.

Chief Justice Knighted.

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to confer upon the Chief Justice, Mr. W. H. Quayle Jones, the dignity of a Knight Bachelor. The intelligence was received here with much satisfaction by the officers of the Government, the members of the Bar, and the public generally.

Sir W. H. Quayle Jones is the first West African Judge who has been the recipient of such high honour whilst in office.

Expedition to Tambi.

West Africa is seldom free from intertribal wars, and the Colony of Sierra Leone may be said to have had its own share in "little wars" during the past decade.

In April 1891, in consequence of disquieting rumours which reached the Government with regard to affairs in the Upper Sandah district, the Inspector General of Police was ordered to make a demonstration with the Frontier Police Force in that country, but not to resort to arms, excepting it was absolutely necessary.

In May the Inspector General of Police sent in a report that in attempting to visit Tambi stockade, belonging to the allies of one Carimoo, a notorious freebooter, the police were fired at by warboys and one constable killed and two officers and three constables wounded. It was then decided that as soon as possible after the cessation of the rains, a sufficient force should be sent to disperse the warboys. On 14th March 1892 a force of police, consisting of four officers and 150 men were despatched, under Major Moore, Inspector General, on a punitive expedition to Tambi. The police endeavoured to take Tambi by assault, but failed to do so and had to retire. In the attack Captain W. H. Robinson, R.E., and one constable were killed, and four officers and 21 police were wounded.

It was determined forthwith to despatch a military expedition to Tambi, and a force consisting of 25 officers and 518 non-commissioned officers and men, under Colonel A. B. Ellis, left Freetown on 30th March. They were joined by four officers and 126 non-commissioned officers and men of Frontier Police and about 380 Native Contingent.

On 7th April, Tambi, which was defended by a strong stockade, outside which, at distances of about 12 and 30 feet respectively, were two war fences, was attacked at about 10 a.m. and was carried by 11.30 a.m.

The casualties were, Native Contingent, 5 killed and 32 wounded, Royal Engineers 1, and West India Regiment 8 men wounded. It was difficult to estimate the loss of the enemy.

The force started on the return journey on 8th April, and arrived in Freetown 15th April.

Imperi District.

The barbarous and inhuman custom of Cannibalism, under the guise of what is commonly called "Tongo Play," has considerably diminished in the Imperi District.

SIERRA LEONE.
1892.

Colonial Steamer.

The colonial steamer "Countess of Derby" left Freetown for England on 9th May to undergo extensive repairs, and returned 10th October. The cost of repairs was 4,000*l*., defrayed by the Colony.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year, as taken at the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, was 145·78 inches, as against 133·61 in 1891.

A new Gaol.

The question of the erection of a new gaol for Freetown has been under consideration for some years, but owing to the financial condition of the Colony it has been impossible to take any steps in that direction. When the new prison is built the separate system will be introduced, in order to render punishment more effective.

The erection of a gaol at any distance from Freetown would cause much inconvenience. It has been decided to enlarge the present gaol buildings, and it is hoped that the necessary work will be commenced at the cessation of the rains or early next year.

Fire at Kissy Road.

A fire occurred at Kissy Road on the night of the 16th August, by which property amounting to over 1,300*l*. was destroyed.

The Strike of Labourers.

The first systematic strike in the history of the Colony of the labouring classes took place in the month of November. The cause arose from the Royal Engineer Department informing the labourers who were employed in the Fortification Works that only 9*d*. a day would be paid instead of 1*s*. This reduction was a disappointment to the men and they proceeded to intimidate labourers employed in mercantile firms. About 800 men having riotously assembled in the streets it became necessary for the Government to take measures for preventing intimidation d breaches of the peace. Certain provisions of the Public Order rdinance No. 4 of 1888 were accordingly put into force and bout 200 special constables sworn in. These precautions had the esired effect.

Drainage of Freetown.

Sanitary improvement of Freetown being of great interest to he community in general, it has been a subject for consideration whether, so far as Freetown is concerned, the expense should be paid for out of funds raised for that purpose or out of the general revenue. It was decided that the inhabitants of

Freetown should be invited to establish a system of Municipal Government, so as to undertake the sanitary improvement of the place and follow the example of all civilised communities in taxing themselves to meet local necessities in the way of drainage, water supply, &c.

Uniform Postal Tariff.

The adoption by the Colony of a uniform postal tariff for all destinations, whether within or without the Postal Union took effect from 1st October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. J. CROOKS,
Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 129.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 96.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1895.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
96	Sierra Leone - - - - -	1892
97	Fiji - - - - - -	„
98	Rodrigues - - - - - -	„
99	St. Helena - - - - -	„
100	British Bechuanaland - - -	1892–93
101	British Guiana - - - - -	„
102	Newfoundland - - - - -	1892
103	Jamaica - - - - - -	1892–93
104	Victoria - - - - -	1892
105	Bermuda - - - - - -	1893
106	Gambia - - - - - -	„
107	Hong Kong - - - - -	„
108	St. Vincent - - - - -	„
109	Gibraltar - - - - - -	„
110	Bahamas - - - - - -	„
111	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	„
112	Leeward Islands - - - - -	„
113	Barbados - - - - - -	„
114	Malta - - - - - -	„
115	Zululand - - - - - -	„
116	British Honduras - - - - -	„
117	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	„
118	Falkland Islands - - - - -	„
119	Rodrigues - - - - - -	„
120	Mauritius - - - - - -	„
121	Straits Settlements - - - -	„
122	Labuan - - - - - -	„
123	Basutoland - - - - -	1893–94
124	St. Lucia - - - - - -	1893
125	St. Helena - - - - -	„
126	Ceylon - - - - - -	„
127	Fiji - - - - - -	„
128	Grenada - - - - - -	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.

No. 129.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE.
1893.

[For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 96.]

Governor CARDEW to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
December 31, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1893. I regret that there should have been such great delay in forwarding this Report, but, as I was not in the Colony during the year 1893, I awaited the return from leave of Major Crooks in order that he might prepare it, especially as during nearly seven months of the period to which it relates he was administering the Government. Major Crooks has prepared this Report from the manuscript returns for the Blue Book as they passed through his hands, but I fear it will be a month or more before the Blue Book itself is ready for transmission to your Lordship, as this year it is being printed for the first time; I have again to express my regret at this further delay but I trust in future the Blue Book, as well as the Report on it, will be more punctually forwarded.

I have given directions for an additional number of copies of the Blue Book to be struck off for sale on application as soon as it is printed.

I have, &c.
F. CARDEW, Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1893.

Colonial Secretariat,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
December 29, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1893.

(1.)—TAXES AND DUTIES.

The only change under this head is "The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1893," which came into operation on the 1st March 1893.

The said Ordinance provides as follows :—

By Section I. the duty of 2*s.* on spirits imposed by Section II. of Ordinance No. XI. of 1874 is increased to 3*s.* per proof gallon.

Section II. empowers the Governor to exempt from the payment of Customs duties official goods imported into the Colony for the use of Consulates, and virtually enlarges the "Table of Exemptions" in Section V. of Ordinance No. 14 of 1887. The exercise of this power is, however, made discretionary with the view of making the exemption restrictive.

Section III. repeals the 3rd section of Ordinance No. 16 of 1890, which established a special tariff for the Isles de Los. By this repeal the tariff for the whole Colony becomes uniform.

The tariff consists of an *ad valorem* duty of 7½ per cent. and certain specific duties, which are moderate. Articles imported for agricultural, manufacturing, and educational purposes, and coals are exempted from duty.

There is no export duty, nor is there any direct taxation.

(2.)—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The total revenue, including the Parliamentary grant in aid of the colonial steamer, was 92,769*l.*, showing an increase of 5,903*l.* over that for 1892.

There was, however, a net decrease of 4,131*l.* on the estimated revenue (96,900*l.*) due principally to the reduced quantity of spirits entered for home consumption, in consequence of the higher rate of duty referred to under the head of "Taxes and Duties."

More than three-fourths of the revenue is derivable from Customs duties on articles imported into the Colony.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure was 96,650*l.* and the amount actually expended was 84,690*l.*, showing a saving on the estimates of 11,959*l.*

The saving was principally on "Public Works," under which head a sum of 4,000*l.* was provided for the drainage of Freetown, but it was not undertaken, the municipal Ordinance having been found to be unworkable.

The expenditure on account of drainage was to be conditional upon the establishment of the municipality.

(3.)—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets on 31st December 1893 exceeded the liabilities by 20,741*l.*, and the Colony at the close of the year was in a better position by 10,544*l.* than at the same period in 1892.

(4.)—PUBLIC DEBT.

This remains the same as at the close of the year 1892, viz., 50,000*l.*, raised in 1871–73 for constructing Public Works, to be repaid in 1896–98.

The sinking fund for its redemption amounted to 37,391*l.* on 31st December 1893.

(5.)—MUNICIPALITY.

"An Ordinance to create the Town of Freetown a Municipal "City and to incorporate the inhabitants thereof" passed the Council on 21st February.

The council is to consist of a mayor and 15 councillors, three of whom are to be appointed by the Governor and Executive Council, the others are to be elected.

Freetown contains over 30,000 inhabitants.

(6.)—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

There is no contribution from the Colony, which is an important coaling station, for the maintenance of the military establishment, the entire expenditure of 41,769*l.* (local), being borne by the Imperial Government.

The garrison consists of a battalion of the West India Regiment, a European detachment of the Royal Artillery, Native Battery of West African Artillery, and a Native detachment of Fortress Engineers.

The troops receive an allowance which amounted during the year to 975*l.* as compensation for customs duties payable by them.

There is no militia force. The Sierra Leone Royal Militia was disbanded in 1863, and since then no similar corps has been organised.

(7.)—THE POLICE FORCE.

The armed Police Force for frontier work consisted, on the 31st December 1893, of 5 European Officers, 4 Native Sub-Inspectors, and 344 men.

The Sierra Leone Police maintained for town work consisted on 31st December 1893 of one Native Sub-Inspector and 200 men.

(8.)—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on Public Works, repairs to buildings, roads, streets, and bridges, amounted to 8,065*l.*

No public work of magnitude has been undertaken, owing to want of funds and the absence of a surveyor.

(9.)—LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important being the "Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance" and the "Freetown Municipal Ordinance."

These have been already referred to under the head of "Taxes" and "Municipality."

(10.)—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Governor.

Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., was absent from the Colony on leave from 27th April to 8th November, and during that period Major J. J. Crooks, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government.

(11.)—PENSIONS.

The sum paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances during the year amounted to 3,258*l.*, being an increase of 273*l.* over that of the previous year.

(12.)—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

A census was taken on 5th April 1891 in such parts of the Colony in which it was found practicable to do so. It was necessary, for political reasons, to confine it to those parts only which were comprised in that of 1881, as it was apprehended that, through ignorance, the aborigines living in some of our newly acquired territory would misconstrue the object of the enumeration and become unnecessarily dissatisfied.

The numbers were: coloured 74,611, white 224, total 74,835.

Within the last few years there has been a large influx of aborigines to the capital, in order to obtain either freedom or employment, but it is not possible to estimate their number.

Births and Deaths.

From the vital statistics furnished by the various district registrars, the total number of births registered during the year was 1,286, and deaths 1,294.

This is an improvement on the previous year, when the excess of registered deaths over births was 203, but, as stated in my report for 1892, the registration system, so far as births are concerned, is, on account of local circumstances, defective.

(13.)—ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are 130 places of worship belonging to the various Christian sects, and, according to the census returns for 1891, the numbers of persons professing Christianity was 41,361

The Church of England is the only one receiving State aid. All the others are either self-supporting, or aided by Missionary Societies. Only the Bishop of the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic priests, and the superintendent of the Wesleyan and the Free Church Methodists are European; all the other ministers of religion are Africans.

(14.)—EDUCATION.

The number of schools examined during the year was 62, the number of pupils on the rolls 4,253 boys, and 4,057 girls, and the amount of Government grants awarded 989*l*.

The Inspector of Schools in his report for 1893 says:—

> "I am pleased to be able to observe, generally, that I found the working of the schools improved, and that there has been corresponding improvement in the results of examination; 7,014 children were present at the inspections, or a percentage of 84·4 of the total enrolment, 8,310."

There are six high schools in Freetown, three for boys and three for girls, with a total attendance during the year under review of 387 boys and 274 girls.

Fourah Bay College, on the outskirts of Freetown, belongs to, and is supported by, the Church Missionary Society, and, by being affiliated to the University of Durham, its students are eligible to take degrees in Arts, Theology, &c.

Newspapers.

Two weekly newspapers were published in Freetown and a fortnightly one at Sherbro', but, judging from their limited circulation, little interest is taken in them by the public.

(15.)—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value and the direction of the trade of the Colony, and the Customs duty realized during the year 1893 are as follows:—

Value of Imports from:	£
United Kingdom - - - -	325,829
British Colonies - - - -	5,543
Foreign Countries - - -	86,094
Total value - - -	£417,466
Customs Duty - - - -	£72,171

SIERRA LEONE. 1893.

There has been a falling off in the imports from the United Kingdom of 6,369*l.* as compared with the year 1892, principally in cotton goods, the French Company having ceased in 1893 to use the warehouse in Freetown as a depôt for Northern River trade.

Notwithstanding this falling off, nearly four-fifths (325,829*l.*) of the total imports for the year were from the United Kingdom.

The British Colonies show an increase of 729*l.*

The increase in value of imports from foreign countries of 9,989*l.* is due chiefly to larger importations of tobacco from America.

The net increase in imports is 4,349*l.*

The principal articles imported were cotton goods, spirits, tobacco, and hardware.

The increase of 2,766*l.* in Customs duty on goods imported, as compared with the previous year, is due to the additional duty of one shilling (1*s.*) per gallon on spirits, imposed by Ordinance No. 1 of 1893.

Exports.

The value of Exports during the year 1893 is as follows:—

	£
To United Kingdom - - - -	166,055
To British Colonies - - - -	30,480
To Foreign Countries - - -	202,129
Total value - -	£398, 664

There has been a falling off of 29,243*l.* in the value of exports to the United Kingdom, due to less exportation of specie 15,000*l.*, rubber 9,000*l.*, and gum 2,754*l.* The two latter are obtained chiefly from the French Northern Rivers, where an export duty of 7 per cent. is imposed.

The decrease of exports to British Colonies, 4,765*l.*, is due to the quarantine regulations in respect to cholera, as referred to under "Shipping," which affected the export of kola nuts to the Gambia to the extent of about 6,000*l.*

The increase of exports to foreign countries, 12,221*l.*, is due to larger exportation of palm kernels to France and ginger and hides to America.

There is a net increase of 21,787*l.* in the value of exports.

The chief exports were palm kernels, rubber, kola nuts, palm oil, ginger, rice, gum copal, pepper and benni seed.

(16.)—SHIPPING.

The total number of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the year was 1,515, with a tonnage of 746,512 tons, showing a falling off of 23 vessels (principally sailing) as compared with the previous year.

SIERRA LEONE. 1893.

Quarantine.

The Health Officer reports—

"That quarantine was strictly enforced on all ships coming to the port with foul bills of health, and from places declared 'infected' within the meaning of the Quarantine Ordinance, 1882.

"The following places were declared infected: Marseilles, St. Louis, and Teneriffe, and strict precautionary measures were observed against the following places:—

"In Europe.—Hamburg, Antwerp, Bilbao, London, Rotterdam, Altona, Hull, Brest, Amsterdam, Grimsby.

"On the West of Africa.—Gambia and French Guinea.

"These restrictions were enforced on 48 vessels from the 4th January 1893 to 13th January 1894, and in consequence 288 passengers, Krooboys, &c. were detained in the lazaretto at different times, either to undergo quarantine or to be fumigated and disinfected.

"In view of the outbreak of cholera which was raging at St. Louis, Rufisque, and neighbouring countries, Freetown was divided into medical districts to be placed under the supervision of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon and the private medical practitioners, whose services were to be retained temporarily by the Government for this duty. Fortunately the disease was not introduced into the Colony."

(17.)—AGRICULTURE.

There has been no marked improvement under this head. Three persons purchased 52 acres of land at 4*s.* 2*d.* per acre from the Government during the year for agricultural purposes.

There is no doubt that with time and patience the land of the country could be made to yield very valuable products. Hitherto commerce has been the only means whereby any real effort has been made to enrich the Colony.

(18.)—MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FACTORIES.

There is nothing done under this head, and no improvement may be looked for until such time as the people put trust in one another and establish companies, as in other parts of the world.

(19.)—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the prisons of the Colony during the year were:—

Males, 505; females, 37; juveniles, 16; total, 558; showing a considerable decrease as against 752 for 1892, 865 for 1891, and

797 for 1890. This large decrease is dealt with in the Acting Queen's Advocate's report under the head of "Criminal Statistics."

(20.)—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported during the year was 1,478, the number of persons apprehended 1,678, the number of summary convictions 633, Supreme Court convictions 52, and acquittals 554.

The Acting Queen's Advocate, in his report on the "Criminal Statistics Return" of 1893, says:—

"The number of 'offences reported to the Police' continues to decrease, and is 1,478 as against 1,695 for 1892, 1,914 for 1891, and 1,753 for 1890.

"There is also a corresponding decrease in the number of 'persons apprehended by the Police' or summoned before the Magistrates, the number being 1,678, or 2·29 per cent. of the whole population of the Colony according to the Census of 1891, and is less by 267 than the number of persons brought before the Magistrates' Courts in the preceding year, and is also fewer than each of the numbers for the last three preceding years, which were 1,945, 2,095, and 1,973, for the years 1892, 1891, and 1890 respectively."

"It will be observed that the number of summary convictions is 633 as against 928 in 1892, and 1,054 and 950 in the years 1891 and 1890 respectively. Larceny, of which 224 persons were convicted, is the predominant crime in the Colony, closely followed by 'offences against the person,' of which 190 persons were summarily convicted.

"Eighty-one persons were committed to the Supreme Court for trial, and of these the Queen's Advocate entered a *nolle prosequi* in 14 cases, leaving 67 for trial, which resulted in 52 convictions and 15 acquittals. Of the above committals four were for murder, resulting in two convictions, one acquittal, and in one case a *nolle prosequi* was entered. Of the two convictions, the full penalty of the law was enforced in one case—that of a soldier who murdered his comrade at Tower Hill Barracks in open day; in the other, as there were extenuating circumstances in connexion therewith, and the jury recommended the prisoner to mercy, the sentence was commuted by the Governor in Council to ten years' imprisonment."

(21.)—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,121, and the number of deaths 170.

The Colonial Surgeon in his annual report for 1893 states:—

"Admissions into the Freetown Hospital were restricted to serious cases of illness, accidents, and to those requiring surgical interference. This is due to the limited number of beds in the Colonial Hospital; an increase of 10 beds has been approved for next year (1894) which I trust will meet to some extent the increasing demands of the inhabitants to become intern patients of the hospital.

"Many of the cases were admitted in serious conditions and 24 died within 72 hours after admission. The majority of them were cases picked up in the streets and suburbs of Freetown, and conveyed to the hospital by the police and sanitary authorities.

"During the year the sanitary condition of the hospital has been satisfactorily maintained as hitherto. The buildings and offices have undergone a large amount of repairs, and have been thoroughly painted, and they have at present a pleasing appearance. The hospital garden is still kept up and looked after."

Freetown Gaol Hospital.

"The sanitary condition of the Gaol has been maintained during the year.

"The extension of the hard-labour yard by the removal of the western boundary wall has added considerably to the good health of the prisoners, who are made to move about the yard one hour after meals before being locked up for the night.

"During the period under review, 60 cases of 'Beri-Beri' were treated in the Gaol. A large number of these, however, had been in prison during the previous year.

"Five convicts were released on medical grounds, as their lives were endangered by continuance in prison.

"Towards the last quarter of the year, the disease 'Beri-Beri,' seemed to have disappeared amongst the prisoners. From this disease 7 deaths occurred.

"The following were the diseases prevalent in the Gaol during the year:—

"Beri-Beri, Malarial Fever, Diarrhœa, and Dysentery."

Male and Female Incurable Hospitals.

These asylums, situated at Kissy, about 3 miles from Freetown, are merely a refuge for the incurables and destitute persons.

The Medical Officer reports that, since the ground floor of the day shed has been concreted, the chigoes pest has considerably abated.

(22.)—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The total admissions during the year were 30, discharges 4, and deaths 13.

There is only one Asylum in the Colony, and it receives lunatics from the Colonies of Gambia and Lagos as well. The building is situated at Kissy.

SIERRA LEONE. 1893.

The Medical Officer, in his report for the year, states that "the lunatics at the asylum have on the whole enjoyed very good health "during the year. They have been well cared for, and "everything which could give pleasure to them encouraged and "instituted."

There were 99 inmates in the Asylum at the end of the year.

(23.)—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Besides the Government hospitals and asylum there are no Almshouses or private charitable institutions in the Colony, excepting the Princess Christian Hospital, founded at the instance of Bishop Ingham and his wife in 1892, which is situated in Fourah Bay Road, on the grounds of Bishop's Court.

The Colonial Government votes 400*l.* annually towards the relief of the poor generally, and the grant is distributed monthly by the Charity Commissioners.

(24.)—SAVINGS BANK.

The Treasury Savings Bank was established in January 1882. The number of depositors at the end of that year was 44. On 31st December 1893 the depositors were 2,206, and the amount due to them 30,725*l.*, which shows that this institution is much appreciated by the public.

(25.)—RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &c.

There are no railways, canals, inland telegraphs, or telephones in the Colony, and but few roads deserving the name. Internal communication is chiefly by water. Horses do not live in the Colony for any time.

Telegraphic communication with Europe, by way of Bathurst in the Gambia, was established in 1886. An annual subsidy of 1,300*l.* is payable to the African Direct Telegraph Company for 20 years.

Mr. W Bradford, C.E., Railway Surveyor, arrived in the Colony on 8th November, with instructions to see in the first place how the shipping in the port of Freetown, and Freetown itself, can be connected with the adjacent country and "hinterland" by a light railway, and whether the rich country to the south of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, and especially the Sulima valley, can be advantageously served by a separate railway.

A survey of the route from Freetown to Bumban, 140 miles, and Mina to Gorahun, 55 miles, was completed before Mr. Bradford's return to England in May this year

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(26.)—Post Statistics.

There were 26 Post Offices and 2 Money Order Offices in the Colony at the end of the year. The total number of letters, &c. dealt with in 1893 was 342,152, and the Money Order transactions amounted to 36,495, showing a considerable increase over previous years.

General Remarks.

I am pleased to be able to reiterate the statement in my report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1892 as to the general condition of the Colony being satisfactory.

The people are progressive, loyal, and contented. The treaty Chiefs continue to be on friendly terms with the Government.

The Public Health.

The Colonial Surgeon in his annual report for 1893 states:—

"The public health during the year was satisfactory. A large number of European ladies resided in Freetown, as in the year 1892. On the whole the health of the European population was good, there being only eight deaths registered amongst the residents.

"Of the 13 Europeans buried in the Freetown cemetery (including 5 brought in from mail steamers) the causes of death were registered as follows for those residing in the Colony:—

4 from Pernicious Malarial Fever.
1 „ Puerperal Fever.
1 „ Acute Rheumatic Fever.
1 „ Sub-acute Mania.
1 „ Tetanus Neonaturum."

The diseases prevalent during the year were the usual Malarial Fever, Dysentery, and diseases of the chest, such as Pneumonia and Bronchitis.

Very few cases of small-pox were recorded in Freetown.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year, as taken at the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, was 168·06 inches, as against 145·78 in 1892.

Monrovia.

In pursuance of instructions, the Governor proceeded to Monrovia on 18th January. He was cordially received by his Excellency the President, and had a long conversation with him on the state of affairs in Half Cavalla caused by British traders landing goods at places other than ports of entry on the Liberian coast.

The Governor's Salary.

The Governor's salary and office expenses (2,500*l.*), an annual grant from Imperial funds in previous years, was this year, in view of the great improvement which has taken place in the financial position of the colony, paid from Colonial funds.

Hon. S. Lewis, C.M.G.

Among the Birthday honours of the year, the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George was conferred upon Honourable Samuel Lewis, unofficial member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Lewis is the first native African in Africa who has been the recipient of such high honour, and the intelligence was received in the Colony with much satisfaction by all classes of the community.

Proclamation.

On 10th July the Administrator (Major Crooks), accompanied by an escort of 100 men of the West India Regiment with six field guns, left Freetown for Porto Lokkoh, to assert sovereignty over the district ceded to the Government by the treaty entered into in 1825 by Major-General Turner and the Chiefs of the Baca Loko District.

On the following day, a meeting of the Chiefs was held on a large open plain where the Muslims generally assemble to pray on their great feast days, when the Proclamation was read, the Union Jack hoisted, and a royal salute fired.

The gathering was said to be one of the largest and most orderly that has ever taken place at one time from and around the District of Porto Lokkoh. The military escort was drawn up in line with the field guns to the left, and the bright uniforms and glistening bayonets in the morning sun presented a scene such as has never before, I believe, been witnessed in that district, and it created a very strong impression on the minds of the audience, who sat as if spellbound.

Treaty.

On 26th September a Treaty was entered into by the Administrator with Bey Inga, King of the Ro Bureh or Small Skarcies country, placing the country under the protection of Great Britain.

The King was promised by Her Majesty's Government that the customs of his country would not be interfered with beyond what may be necessary to maintain peace and order and to prevent the traffic in slaves.

The district affected by this step lies on both banks of the Small Skarcies river, between the Magbemah and Mafoki Districts, and its Chiefs entered into a treaty of friendship with Her Majesty's Government as far back as 1851.

The Locusts.

On 25th November a vast swarm of locusts, passed over Freetown from the eastern district (Waterloo), darkening the heavens as they moved along and damaging the rice crop.

There was considerable excitement in the city on the occasion, no similar visitation having taken place since 1843.

In the earlier part of the year the locusts passed over the farms in the Great and Small Skarcies districts and North Bullom.

In reference to the expedition to Tambi, 1892, I remarked that "West Africa is seldom free from intertribal wars, and that "Sierra Leone may be said to have had its own share in little "wars during the past decade."

Unfortunately the year 1893 was no exception in this respect, it being found necessary to despatch an—

Expedition against the Sofas.

The Government having received several reports from the Police of the depredations committed and the devastation wrought by the Sofas in Kuniki and Kuranko, it was decided to send an expeditionary force against them in November.

Accordingly a force of 17 officers and 431 men, under the command of Colonel A. B. Ellis, C.B., the West India Regiment, left Freetown during the last week of November and early part of December, and advanced from Bendu in Sherbro to Banguma in Bambara *viâ* Mafwe, and thence to Kerra Yemma, the chief position of the Sofas.

Before daybreak on the 23rd December the British Camp at Warina, Konnoh Country, was attacked by Lieutenant Maritz, of the French Army, with a force of 30 Tirailleurs Senegalais, and about 1,200 Native Allies, mistaking the force in camp to be Sofas, under Porokerri, endeavouring to escape from the sphere of British influence and join Samadu. A very heavy and well-sustained fire, both from rifles and muskets, was kept up on the camp and our losses in this melancholy affair were, killed, Lieutenants Liston and Wroughton, Sergeant-Major, and four privates, 1st Battalion West India Regiment, and Captain Lendy, Inspector-General, and two privates of the Frontier Police Force; wounded, one Sergeant-Major and 14 men of the West India Regiment and three men of the Frontier Police.

Lieutenant Maritz died at noon, from wounds received, and he was buried with military honours along with our dead at 4 p.m.

The Sofas attacked the town of Tungeah in the Mongrey District, on the morning of 28th December, but were repulsed with considerable loss by the Frontier Police under Sub-Inspector Taylor. Porokerri, the leader of the party, was killed.

At Bagbwema (on 2nd January 1894) the Sofas were taken by surprise and their loss was about 200 killed and 77 prisoners. In the forest outside the town about 70 were shot down; 673 slaves, women and children, who had been carried off by the Sofas in their various raids, were rescued.

The troops commenced the return march on 10th January 1894, and the headquarters of the expedition reached Freetown on 21st.

The officer in command reports that the devastation wrought by the Sofas was far greater than he had supposed. In addition to the depredations committed in Kuniki and Kuranko, a large part of Bambara, the northern half of Saua Konno, and the whole of Sanda Konno, had been laid waste. The Sofas were simply slave hunters. With or without pretext they attacked in succession the surrounding tribes, taking the rice and other crops for their own use, slaughtering the men, and seizing the women and children as slaves. It will take many years to repair the mischief done.

The Training Squadron, consisting of H.M. Ships "Active," "Volage," "Calypso," and "Ruby," visited Freetown in December, en route to the West Indies.

I have, &c.
J. J. CROOKS,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Colonel F. Cardew, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief
of Sierra Leone.

(3).—GOVERNOR'S TOURS.

SIERRA LEONE. 1894.

On the 27th March his Excellency Colonel Cardew, accompanied by the District Commissioner of Sherbro, the Acting Inspector General of Frontier Police, one Inspector, and Mr. Parkes, Superintendent of Native Affairs, proceeded to the Hinterland viâ Waterloo, in order to establish police posts in the most convenient centres, and to visit the Kono district which had been the scene of recent raids by the Sofas and Mendis.

During this visit he fixed upon Mongheri and Falaba as posts, and arranged for a company of Frontier Police to be stationed at each place under the command of a European officer.

On this occasion his Excellency also took steps for the adoption of stringent measures for stopping the overland slave traffic, which was rife in the districts through which he travelled.

His Excellency returned from this journey, which covered over 600 miles and occupied 51 days, on the 17th May.

(4).—TAIWOR DISTURBANCES

Perry Duaroo or Pedwaro, who resided in Liberian territory, appears to have been at the bottom of these disturbances, which since 1892 have been causing considerable trouble, devastating the whole of the Taiwor and Gor country, and interfering with trade in the Sulimah district.

It would seem that on the 10th April 1893, a man named Tambawa, employed by Perry Duaroe, with his war boys, crossed over into Taiwor land (Liberian territory), came into Tunkia, within the British sphere of influence, and during the same month made advances to employ mercenaries from Pow Lalana, the Chief of that place, to assist him in his projects. He then, with Perry Duaroe and their followers, occupied the towns of Bakehmah and Fangawalahun within the British sphere, from whence they used to cross over to make wars in Taiwor (Liberian territory) and take to the Gora country such persons as they could capture.

These troubles on our border formed the subject of much correspondence with the Liberian Government during the year, and necessitated the Government posting extra police in the Sulimah district to try and keep peace, and matters were not satisfactorily settled at the close of the year.

Proclamations.

In consequence of the disturbances which had prevailed in the Sanda Lokkoh district for several years, and the consequent increase of the slave trade there, it became necessary, on the 1st of June, to issue a proclamation prohibiting the importation of flint-lock guns and trade powder into the disturbed area, and to take measures for the arrest of Fombo and Suaa, the leaders in

Sierra Leone. 1894.

The Colonial Government votes annually 400*l.* towards the relief of the poor, and the grant is distributed monthly by the charity commissioners.

(23.)—Railways, Canals, Roads, &c.

There are no railways, canals, inland telegraphs, or telephones in the Colony. The roads, with few exceptions, are poor. Horses do not live in the Colony for any time. It is to be hoped that before long a railway will be opened, a survey having been made in 1893.

General Remarks.

(1.)—The Public Health.

The Assistant Colonial Surgeon reports as follows:—

"The public health during the year was most unsatisfactory; a good deal of sickness was prevalent among the natives and European residents.

"This was particularly noticed during the months of February, May, June, July, and August, when malarial fever of a pernicious type was prevalent; during the latter half of the year when diarrhoea (of a dysenteric type), bronchitis, and small-pox were very general."

The number of deaths among Europeans was 16 (including one case on board a steamer in port, and three cases that died within 36 hours after landing in Freetown from the rivers).

The causes of death were as follows:—

13	Bilious remittent hœmorrhagic fever.
1	Convulsions.
1	Hepatic congestion.
1	Died on his way to Freetown from Hinterland from malarial fever.
16	

Small-pox.

Small-pox was introduced into the city by means of native traders from Port Lokkoh, Rutifunk, Bompeh, and districts of the Protectorate where it was raging in an epidemic form. Every precaution was taken, and vaccination was conducted extensively during the year throughout the peninsula and at Sherbro.

(2.)—Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year was in Freetown, as taken in the Colonial Hospital, 141·26 inches as against 168·06 inches in 1893.

In the Imperri district, Sherbro, the crime of murder still continues frequent. The so-called human leopards, or men dressed in leopard skins, attack solitary individuals and murder them for some special purpose; some say cannibalism is the object; but in any case it appears to be the result of an organized secret society, and, so far, the Government have failed to put a stop to the custom, although efforts have been made in that direction. In other respects the Sherbro district shows a general reduction in crime.

(20.)—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,186, and the number of deaths 191.

The Acting-Colonial Surgeon states :—

"During the year the sanitary condition of the hospital was very satisfactorily maintained."

Freetown Gaol Hospital.

The sanitary condition of the gaol has been satisfactory; "Beri-beri" showed itself at the commencement of the rains in 13 prisoners. Eight of these were cured, and five released on medical grounds and sent to Isles de Los for the benefit of their health, which resulted in their recovery. The majority of these cases occurred amongst political prisoners from the interior, and showed itself about two months after imprisonment.

There were no deaths during the year.

(21.)—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The total admissions during the year were 37, discharges, 8, and deaths, 23.

The asylum is situated at Kissy, about three miles from Freetown. It is in a good and healthy position, but that building, as well as the Incurable and Small-Pox Hospitals situated close by, should be rebuilt as soon as funds are available, all being very old and dilapidated.

The daily average number in the asylum during the year was 104·3.

(22.)—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no almshouses or private charitable institutions in the Colony, with the exception of the Princess Christian Cottage Hospital, started in 1892 by the Bishop of Sierra Leone and some friends in England.

This institution is doing admirable work, and the English ladies who have given their help voluntarily, as nurses and general managers, deserve the sincere thanks of the community of this Colony.

I may mention also that the trade in Sherbro will be considerably increased when the Imperri district is more settled. The secret society which at present exists, resulting in the Imperri murders by so-called human leopards, prevents the collection of large quantities of produce in this very rich district.

There is also a custom which has interfered greatly with trade, viz. :—certain chiefs, for various reasons of their own, place an interdict on the collection of produce from time to time. This is called "Porroh Law."

(16.)—SHIPPING.

The total number of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the year was 1,558, with a tonnage of 962,046, showing an increase in the number of vessels as compared with last year of 43.

Quarantine.

During the year, only three vessels were placed under observation for a few hours.

(17.)—AGRICULTURE.

There has been no marked improvement under this head. It is to be hoped that when a botanical station is started in the Colony, and encouragement given thereby to cultivators of coffee, cocoa, kola nuts, &c., matters may improve under this head.

(18.)—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the prisons of the Colony during the year were :—Males 650, females 31, juveniles 6; total 687, showing an increase of 129 over last year.

(19.)—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported during the year was 1,495, the number of persons apprehended 1,635, the number of summary convictions 687, supreme court convictions 53, and acquittals 424.

There is a decrease in number of cases reported and apprehensions in Freetown as compared with 1893, but there is a slight increase in offences against property in general, viz., burglary and larceny. This cannot be attributed to the large influx of aborigines, as most of the burglars were old offenders, but may be due to the fact that a detective force has been organized. During the rainy season, when burglaries are frequent, a larger number of police are much required for night duty.

Offences remain as in 1893, namely nearly three per cent. on population.

Two weekly newspapers were published in Freetown, and a fortnightly one at Sherbro.

(15.)—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value, the direction of the trade of the Colony, and the customs duties realised during the year 1894, are as follows:—

Value of imports from:—

	£
The United Kingdom - - -	381,248
British colonies - - -	11,012
Foreign countries - - -	85,766
Total value - - -	478,026
Customs duty, specific and ad valorem -	79,801

There has been an increase in the imports from the United Kingdom of 55,419*l*. as compared with last year.

The British Colonies show an increase of 5,469*l*., but there is a decrease in imports from foreign countries as compared with 1893 of 328*l*.

The net increase on imports this year is 61,559*l*. and the increase on Customs duty, as compared with 1893, is 7,630*l*.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports during the year 1894 is as follows:—

	£
To United Kingdom - - -	196,171
„ British colonies - - -	24,873
„ Foreign countries - - -	205,455
Total value - -	426,499

There has been an increase in the value of exports to the United Kingdom of 30,116*l*. as compared with last year, a decrease in the value of exports to British Colonies of 5,607*l*., an increase in the value of exports to foreign countries of 3,326, and a net increase of 27,835*l*.

The chief exports were palm kernels, rubber, kola nuts, palm oil, ginger, rice, gum copal, pepper, and benni seed.

It may here be mentioned that the Customs Revenue in 1894 is higher than it has been since the Colony was formed, but, as there are now far more traders engaged in commerce than formerly, there is keener competition, and, therefore, smaller profits. There are still large quantities of produce lost through waste, particularly in regard to palm oil and palm kernels, in consequence of difficulty of transport. This is where a railway would be so useful, and, when this project is completed, a much larger trade may confidently be expected.

Sierra Leone.
1894.

(11.)—Pensions.

The sum paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances during the year amounted to 2,419*l.*, being a decrease of 838*l.* under that of the previous year.

(12.)—Population and Vital Statistics.

Population.

The last census was taken on 5th April 1891, as reported in report for 1893. The numbers were, coloured, 74,611, white, 224, total 74,835.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of births registered during the year was 1,276 and deaths 1,449.

In the city of Freetown only the following were recorded:—births, 647, deaths, 800. Estimated population, 45,000. Death rate per 1,000 was 17·7; there is no doubt, however, that a large number of deaths are still unregistered, which will account for the low death-rate.

(13.)—Ecclesiastical.

There are 130 places of worship belonging to the various Christian denominations, and, according to the last census returns, the number of persons professing Christianity was 41,361.

(14.)—Education.

The number of schools examined for the year 1894 was 63, the number of pupils on the rolls was, boys, 4,356, girls, 3,980, total, 8,336; and the amount of Government grants awarded was 933*l.* 7*s.*

Technical School.

A fund was started by the Church Missionary Society for the above object during the year, and in November a gentleman connected with the society was sent out from England to prepare plans for public information; his information was duly given in the presence of the Governor (Colonel Cardew) and several leading people in Freetown, on the occasion of the cathedral school prize-giving just before Christmas, and the result was that a small technical school committee was formed.

There are six high schools in Freetown, three for boys and three for girls.

Fourah Bay College, situated close to Freetown, is supported by the Church Missionary Society, and it is affiliated to the University of Durham; there were 16 students during 1894.

The garrison consists of a battalion of the West India Regiment, a European detachment of the Royal Artillery, a native battery of West African Artillery, and a native detachment of fortress engineers.

The troops receive an allowance, which amounted during the year to 1,151*l.*, as compensation for Customs duties payable by them.

There is no militia.

(7.)—The Sierra Leone Frontier Police.

This consists of five companies, with a total strength of one inspector-general, five inspectors, one adjutant, five native sub-inspectors, a native paymaster, and 550 sub-officers and privates.

The men do not come from any one tribe or special part of the country, but every tribe, from north to south, and every language, has its representative, a fact of great value, as there are so many different languages spoken within, and close to, the Colony.

The uniform of blue serge, consisting of a light jumper, short knickerbockers, a red cummerbund and red fez, is very serviceable and inexpensive, and is all that is necessary for the nature of the work required to be performed.

The Sierra Leone civil police, maintained for town work, consist of one superintendent, one inspector, one sub-inspector (a native) and 242 sergeants and constables.

(8.)—Public Works.

The expenditure on public works, repairs to buildings, roads, streets, and bridges, amounted to 10,017*l.*

Mr. T. E. Laing, the new Colonial Surveyor, arrived in the Colony on 22nd December 1894. For some years past the work of this Department has been carried on under a clerk of works in charge.

(9.)—Legislation.

12 Ordinances were passed during the year; none of these call for special mention.

(10.)—Civil Establishment.

The Governor.

Major Crooks, Colonial Secretary, administered the Government during the absence on leave of Sir Francis Fleming, from the 1st February to the 13th March, when Colonel Cardew, C.M.G., took over the Government as Administrator until permanently appointed as Governor on 28th November 1894.

for export, must be terrible. The strength of the spirit thus imported in demijohns and cases averages 55 per cent. under proof, and the quality may be more easily imagined than described.

The quantity of gin of between 18 and 20 per cent. under proof imported is very small, as its consumption is confined to the well-to-do-class of the community.

The total quantity of trade gin and rum imported during 1894 was 242,686 proof gallons, valued at 25,266*l.*, whereas in 1893 the total quantity was 222,678 proof gallons, valued at 22,110*l.*, being an increase on last year of 20,008 gallons, and 3,156*l.* in value.

There is no export duty, nor is there direct taxation at present.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure was 97,121*l.*, and the amount actually expended 93,099*l.*, showing a saving on the estimates of 4,022*l.*

(3.)—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets on 31st December 1894 exceeded the liabilities by 38,618*l.*

(4.)—PUBLIC DEBT.

This remains the same, viz.:—

50,000*l.* raised in 1871–73 for constructing public works, to be repaid in 1896–98.

The sinking fund for its redemption amounted to 42,791*l.* on 31st December 1894.

(5.)—MUNICIPALITY.

An Ordinance, amending "An Ordinance to create the town of Freetown a municipal city and to incorporate the inhabitants thereof," which passed the Council on 21st February 1893, was passed this year entitled "The Freetown Municipality Amendment Ordinance, 1894."

The Council is to consist of a mayor and 15 councillors, three of whom are to be appointed by the Governor and Executive Council, the others being elected.

Freetown contains over 30,000 inhabitants.

(6.)—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

There is no contribution from the Colony, which is now an important coaling station. The local expenditure for the military establishment in 1894 was 57,852*l.*, being 16,083*l.* over that for the previous year.

No. 160.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1893, see No. 129.)

Sierra Leone. 1894.

The Acting Governor to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House, Freetown, Sierra Leone,
October 18, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1894, which has been prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore, Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
J. E. Caulfeild.

Report on the Blue Book, 1894.

(1.)—Taxes and Duties.

There is no change under this head.

(2.)—Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The total Revenue for the year was 98,838*l*., showing an increase of 6,069*l*. over that for 1893.

There was an increase on the estimated Revenue of 1,588*l*., due chiefly to the higher duty on spirits, it being 3*s*. per proof gallon instead of 2*s*. This came into force on the 1st March 1893, by the provisions of the Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1893.

It may not be out of place here to remark on the inferior quality of the spirit imported into the Colony.

Gin in cases, especially the kind imported for sale to the Natives of the interior, has frequently been used by painters as driers in lieu of turpentine. The effect of such spirit on consumers, who are also the collectors and growers of our produce

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 160.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, see No. 129 of this Series.)

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February 1896.

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1896.

[C.—7944–12.] *Price 1d.*

or possession of certain articles—such as a leopard skin so shaped as to make a man wearing it resemble a leopard; a leopard knife or knives, with two prongs; certain native medicine known as "Borfima,"—penal. It also gives the police greater powers of arrest and search on a warrant from a magistrate.

No. 19. An Ordinance to amend the law relating to customs duties on spirits, passed on the 27th day of December.

The effect of this is to charge duty on the imperial, instead of the proof, gallon in the case of spirits under proof, and it was introduced for the following reasons:—

(1) To check the introduction into the Colony of a very inferior class of trade spirits, hitherto largely introduced and consumed chiefly by the natives of the hinterland who are the collectors of produce;

(2) To increase the revenue, necessary to meet expenses connected with the development of the Colony by means of a railway, &c., &c.

10. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Several important changes took place during this year.

Sir William Quayle Jones, Kt., Chief Justice, and Major Crooks, Colonial Secretary, retired on pension. Lieut.-Col. J. C. Gore succeeded Major Crooks as Colonial Secretary, taking up the duties of that office on the 1st June. The appointment of Chief Justice was not filled before the end of the year.

Mr. Macarthy, Queen's Advocate, was transferred to the Gold Coast Colony as Solicitor-General, and Mr. P. Crampton Smyly, B.L., was appointed in his place.

Lieut.-Col. Caulfeild, Commanding the Troops, administered the Government from 14th June to the 13th December, during the absence on leave of his Excellency the Governor.

11. PENSIONS.

The sum paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances during the year amounted to 2,454*l*. 5*s*., being a slight increase on the amount expended last year.

12. POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been no census taken since 1891 when the numbers were as follows:—

Coloured, 74,611; white, 224; total, 74,835.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of births registered during the year in the Colony was 1,445, and deaths, 1,509 as against births, 1,275, and deaths, 1,449, during the previous year.

The death rate for the Colony per 1,000 was 20·16.

Sierra Leone.
1895.

The four assistant inspectors were appointed during the year, and at the same time there was a reduction of 50 privates made, which leaves the total as shown above.

The protectorate for police purposes is divided into five districts, with a company consisting of a European officer, a native officer, eight non-commissioned officers and 90 men in each district, viz.:—Karena, Falaba, Pangoma, Bandasuma, and Freetown, where the headquarters of the whole corps is situated. Small detachments, usually consisting of a non-commissioned officer and three privates, are posted at the most important places, such as towns where several routes converge, and the whole district is searched by constant patrols, in order to check the slave traffic, prevent slave raiding, and maintain general peace and order. The Colony of Sierra Leone with its pro[illegible] measures about 210 miles from north to south, a[illegible] east to west, and embraces an area of ab[illegible] square miles.

8. PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on public works, repairs to buildings, roads, streets, and bridges amounted to 7,831*l*., as against 10,017*l*. in 1894. The sum estimated for the year was, however, 9,730*l*., but several items had to be put aside owing to the fall in the revenue.

9. LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year, as against 12 in 1894.

No. 5. An Ordinance to legalise and render valid the ward electors' lists and electors' roll for the purpose of holding the first election of councillors for the city of Freetown in the month of August was passed on the 26th June.

No. 8. An Ordinance to amend the law with reference to trial by jury was passed on the 7th day of August, by which trial by the court with the aid of assessors in certain cases became law.

By this Ordinance, in cases not punishable by death, a return has been made to the old system of a majority verdict.

The property qualification of jurors was raised, and the Governor in Council has the power of ordering a trial by assessors in the case of public officers charged with certain criminal offences affecting Government property.

No. 12. This Ordinance was passed to legalise the detention of Tambawa as a political prisoner, on account of his having been engaged, since 1892, in disturbing the peace of the North Faiama and Gorohun districts in the British sphere of influence, and the districts of the Tehwa and Golo in Liberian territory, which disturbances seriously interfered with the trade of the Sherbro district.

No. 15. This Ordinance was necessary in order to facilitate the detection and punishment of murders committed by the secret society which has existed for a long time in the Imperi district, known as "The Human Leopard Society." It makes the wearing

Sierra Leone. 1895.

3. Assets and Liabilities.

The assets on the 31st December 1895 exceeded the liabilities by 39,284*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

4. Public Debt.

This remains the same, viz., 50,000*l.* raised in 1871–73 for constructing public works, to be repaid in 1896–98.

The sinking fund for its redemption amounted to 45,226*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* on the 31st December 1895.

5. Municipality.

The first election of councillors for the city of Freetown was held on the 5th August 1895. The first mayor elected was the Honourable Samuel Lewis, C.M.G., B.L.

The Council consists of a mayor and fifteen councillors, three of whom are appointed by the Government, the others being elected.

6. Military Expenditure.

The Colony does not contribute towards the upkeep of the troops.

The local expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for the year amounted to 60,382*l.*, as against 57,852*l.* for 1894.

The garrison consists of a European detachment of Royal Artillery, a native battery of West African Artillery, a detachment of Fortress Engineers and a battalion of the West India Regiment.

The troops receive an allowance, which amounted during the year to 1,338*l.*, as against 1,151*l.* for 1894, as compensation for customs duties payable by them.

There is no militia.

7. The Sierra Leone Frontier Police.

The establishment for 1895 was as follows:—

1	inspector-general
6	inspectors
4	assistant inspectors
5	sub-inspectors (natives)
1	paymaster (native)
1	medical officer (native)
1	regimental sergeant-major
1	quartermaster sergeant
1	orderly room clerk
20	sergeants
20	corporals
8	boys
450	privates
519	

Sierra Leone. 1895.

2. Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The estimated revenue for 1895 was 106,825*l.* The sum actually realised, however, was 97,851*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, being 8,973*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* below the amount estimated.

This is accounted for by the great fall off in Customs receipts for the year, amounting to 7,546*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, due chiefly to the depression in the Sherbro and Sulymah trade owing to the reduction in the price of palm kernels between the months of January and August. This led to many of the native Chiefs forming a combination and issuing orders to their people not to sell the kernels under 5*s.* a bushel, thus causing a deadlock in trade for the time being.

The following is a comparative statement of the monthly receipts at Sherbro from the 1st February to 30th April for 1894 and 1895:—

—	1894.	1895.
	£	£
February - - -	912	798
March - - -	913	304
April - - -	1,815	509
Total - -	3,639	1,611

This represents an average monthly receipt of 1,213*l.* in 1894, as against 537*l.* in 1895, or a deficit of 55·7 per cent.

The amount realised for the year was, however, only 986*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* below that of 1894, when the Customs revenue reached the highest figure it has done since the Colony was formed.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for 1895 was 105,724*l.*, and the amount actually expended, exclusive of 3,556*l.* 15*s.* for the Sierra Leone Railway service, was 96,690*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, showing a saving on the estimates of 9,033*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

	£	s.	d.
Revenue - - -	97,851	17	3
Expenditure - - -	96,690	17	4
Balance to credit of Colony -	1,160	19	11

It was decided to raise a loan of 150,000*l.* to meet the expenses connected with the Sierra Leone Railway.

SIERRA LEONE. 1895.

No. 170.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1894, see No. 160.)

Governor CARDEW to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN

Government House, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
May 22, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1895, which has been prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore, Colonial Secretary.

The Blue Book itself cannot be completed for some months, but every endeavour will be made to forward it as early as possible; in the meantime the accompanying report gives a summary of information with regard to the state of the revenue, trade, &c.

I have, &c.
F. CARDEW,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1895.

1. TAXES AND DUTIES.

On the 27th December 1895 an Ordinance was passed (No. 19) amending the Law relating to Customs duties upon spirits, by which duty is charged on the imperial gallon of spirits below proof, instead of, as heretofore, in regard to this class of spirits, on the proof gallon. This measure was to come into force on the 1st January 1896.

There is no export duty, nor is there direct taxation at present. The Municipal Council have power, under Ordinance No. 6 of 1893, to charge for certain licenses, such as business licenses, licenses for vehicles, entertainments, &c., and also to levy a rate called the city rate, which shall be assessed on, and shall not exceed 10 per centum of the annual value of, all kinds of hereditaments comprised within the city, to be ascertained by a Valuation List.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 170.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, see No. 160 of this Series.)

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1896.

[C.—7944-22.] *Price* 1*d*.

SIERRA LEONE 1894.

these disturbances. The steps proved successful, and they were arrested and detained as political prisoners under Ordinance, No. 4 of 20th August.

Labourers engaged for Congo Free State.

In consequence of reports as to the treatment of natives engaged in the Colony for service in the Congo Free State it was deemed necessary to issue a notice on the 5th of June, notifying that persons desirous of entering the service of that State should not leave the Colony without having a written agreement stating the nature of employment and the terms of service, signed before the police magistrate of Freetown, or the district commissioners of the Sherbro, Eastern, or Western Districts, who would explain it to them.

Political Prisoners.

The general state of the country having become quite peaceful, the political prisoners who had been deported to Elmina and Bathurst for the part they had taken in the Yonni disturbances, which necessitated the expedition of Sir Francis de Winton in 1887, and the Sulimah disturbances, which were suppressed by the measures taken by Sir James Hay in 1888, were released and restored to their homes.

J. C. GORE,
9th October 1895. Acting Colonial Secretary.

The total number of births registered in Freetown for the year was 615, and deaths 847, as against births 647, and deaths 800, in 1894, the death rate per 1,000 being 21·03.

The estimated population of the city of Freetown is about 40,326.

13. ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are 130 places of worship belonging to the various Christian denominations, and according to the last returns the number of persons professing Christianity was 41,361.

14. EDUCATION.

Sixty-three schools and one department were inspected and examined during the year 1894–5. The number of children present at the inspections was 6,826, the number on the rolls being 8,337.

The total of "grants in aid" earned upon examination for the year was 932*l.*

At a meeting of the Board of Education a committee of ladies and gentlemen was formed with the object of holding a competitive examination of school work, and on the 18th December the examination, which was fairly good, was held.

Technical School.

A Government grant of 420*l.* towards the initial expenses of this institution was approved by the Secretary of State, and also an annual grant of 100*l.* for five years from the opening of the school. Private subscriptions having also been raised and a plot of ground granted by the Government, the building was commenced, and by the end of 1895 it was nearly completed.

It is to be hoped that this institution may be the means of educating young men who desire to become efficient carpenters, masons, &c., these trades being at present very badly represented.

Two weekly newspapers are published in Freetown.

15. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value, the direction of the trade of the Colony, and the customs duties realised during the year 1895, are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From United Kingdom - -	336,414	8	3
,, British Colonies - -	5,754	9	2
,, Foreign Countries - -	85,168	17	11
Total value - -	427,337	15	4

	£	s.	d.
Customs duty, specific - -	65,473	10	7
Ad valorem -	17,105	10	0
Total duty -	82,579	0	7

There has been a decrease in the imports generally, viz.:—

	£
From United Kingdom - - -	44,834
„ British Colonies - - -	5,258
„ Foreign Countries - - -	598

as compared with last year.

The net decrease on imports this year is 50,687*l.*, as follows:—

	£
Cotton goods - - - -	28,218
Woollen goods - - - -	5,137
Haberdashery - - - -	3,241
Hats and caps - - - -	1,802
Apparel - - - - -	1,672
Earthenware - - - -	809
Goods liable to specific duty:—	
Hardware - - - -	4,171
Specie - - - - -	5,700
Total - -	50,750

The decrease in cotton and woollen goods is due to depression of trade in the Sherbro district during the early part of the year.

There is, however, a net increase on customs duty, as compared with 1894, of 2,778*l.* This is due to more duty collected on goods liable to specific duty, chiefly on the following articles:—

	£
Rum - - - - - -	656
Tobacco - - - -	1,351
Geneva - - - - -	1,911
Whiskey and other spirits - -	1,068
Kerosine oil - - - -	491
Wine - - - - -	117
Total - - -	5,584

Deducting the decrease on goods liable to ad valorem duty, together with hardware, viz., 2,866*l.*, the difference is nearly as shown above.

The value of goods warehoused in 1895 amounted to 84,978*l.*, as against 112,821*l.* in 1894, showing a decrease of 27,843*l.*

Goods entered for home consumption also show a decrease of 35,394*l.*, due to a slight depression of trade generally.

The total value of goods imported by the Colonial Government is 7,081*l.*, or an increase of 3,298*l.* over 1894, consequent on the greater importation of clothing (for police, gaols, &c.), boats, machinery, musical instruments (organ for cathedral), medicines, earthenware, iron pipes, furniture, &c.

There is a falling off in value of goods imported by the Imperial Government to the extent of 4,112*l.*, due to the less importation of guns, specie (money being obtained in sufficient quantity from the Colonial Government, &c.), provisions and clothing.

Exports.

The value of exports during the year 1895 was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To United Kingdom - -	206,872	17	7
„ British Colonies - -	21,792	0	7
„ Foreign countries - -	223,939	6	5
Total value - -	452,604	4	7

There has been an increase in the value of exports to the United Kingdom of 9,701*l.* as compared with last year, a decrease in the value of exports to British Colonies of 3,081*l.*, an increase in the value of exports to foreign countries of 18,494*l.*, and a net increase of 26,105*l.*

This increase is principally on—

	£
Palm oil - - - -	10,367
Palm kernels - - - -	1,467
Rubber - - - - -	35,997
Gum copal - - - -	726
Cotton goods for Northern Rivers -	4,552
Total - -	53,109

There is a decrease on some of the other important articles of trade, such as—

	£
Kola nuts - - - -	1,109
Ginger - - - - -	2,320
Benniseed - - - -	2,236
Rice - - - - -	5,534
Coffee - - - - -	692
Specie - - - - -	13,789
Guns - - - - -	592
Empty casks - - - -	525
Haberdashery - - - -	316
Total - -	27,113

which, if deducted, gives a net increase nearly as above.

On the whole, the export trade of the Colony for 1895 was very satisfactory.

16. SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1895 was—

—	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels - -	382	10,386
Steam vessels - -	407	500,144
Total - -	789	510,530

The number and tonnage of vessels cleared was—

—	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels - -	362	11,198
Steam vessels - -	411	500,142
Total - -	773	511,340

a decrease in number as regards steamers entered, viz., 407 as against 429 in 1894, but an increase of sailing vessels, viz., 382 as against 354 in 1894.

17. AGRICULTURE.

A botanic station was established near Freetown this year, and a curator arrived in the Colony on the 2nd December.

It having been decided to hold an agricultural exhibition in January 1896, a committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements.

A Government grant of 100*l.* was voted in aid of prizes to be given at this exhibition, and public subscriptions were raised towards the same good object.

It is to be hoped that the exhibition will be held annually, that a greater interest in agricultural pursuits will thus be fostered in the community, and that, in time, the natives of the hinterland will be taught a better method of cultivating, collecting, and preparing the valuable products of the country.

There is no doubt that, in consequence of their present lack of knowledge, and also from want of cheap means of transport, large quantities of produce are wasted and the commercial value of what is collected, particularly rubber, palm oil, and coffee, is very much depreciated owing to the crude manner in which it is prepared for the market.

SIERRA LEONE.
1895.

18. GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the gaols of the Colony during the year were :—

Freetown gaol	508
Sherbro gaol	115
Eastern district	28
Western district	33
Total	685

The number of prisoners sentenced during the year to penal imprisonment in Freetown gaol was 346, and the number of convictions by the police magistrate for offences of a light nature was 192.

19. CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Of 1,161 prisoners charged before the police magistrate, 410 were discharged, 245 were dismissed, 427 summarily convicted, and 79 referred for trial.

The total number of convictions and commitments for trial was less than that of the previous year by 29.

The total number of offences against the person for 1895 was 26 above that of 1894.

There was a slight decrease in the number of larceny cases, possibly due to the fact that a fair number of loafers and bad characters emigrated to the Congo and Fernando Po.

The number of persons charged with housebreaking was about three times that of 1894. This I consider due to the increased activity of the police.

In regard to the Sherbro district there was an increase of 10 in the charges of larceny for the year 1895 over 1894.

I may here remark that owing to the great distance of the judicial court at Bonthe from the outstations at Lavana, Sulima, Mano Salija, and other places within active jurisdiction of the Sherbro district, it is certain that many cases which should be tried are never brought to justice. It therefore appears very desirable to give greater facility for the proper administration of justice in this important district, and it may be necessary to appoint another district commissioner in the near future.

20. HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,391 and the number of deaths 191.

The sanitary condition of the hospitals was satisfactory.

Freetown Gaol Hospital.

The sanitary condition of the gaol has been very satisfactory. The average daily number on sick list was 16.

There was one death during the year, giving a death rate of 2·2 per cent. among the total male admissions and ·16 per cent. among the total inmates.

21. LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The total number of admissions during the year were 10, discharges 1, and deaths 10.

The daily average number of patients was 103·41.

22. CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no almshouses or other charitable institutions, but the Colonial Government votes annually 400*l*. towards the relief of the poor, and the grant is distributed monthly by the Charity Commissioners, one of whom is always a Government officer.

The Princess Christian Hospital, opened in June 1892, for the purpose of training educated African ladies in nursing and administering to the bodily and spiritual needs of the sick poor, still continues to do good work, and to be highly appreciated.

The hospital staff consists of three European ladies, two of whom are honorary workers, assisted by three African ladies as probationers, and this year Dr. Hugh Ross arrived from England and was appointed medical officer, *vice* Dr. Jackson, retired.

23. RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &c.

Commencement of the Pioneer Railway in West Africa.

On the 14th November Mr. W. Bradford, with a staff of assistants, arrived in Freetown and commenced a survey for a narrow gauge railway (2′ 6″) from the Racecourse, near Cline Town, about two miles from Freetown, to Songo Town, a distance of about 30 miles.

As it was decided to land all material for the construction of the railway at Cline Town Bay, in order to avoid land transport as much as possible, arrangements were at once made to build a pier at that place and construct a branch line from thence to the Racecourse where the depôt from which the trunk line commenced would be situated.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. *The Public Health.*

The public health generally was fairly good in 1895 as compared with the previous year.

The number of deaths among Europeans was only six as against 16 in 1894; but there were a considerable number of serious cases invalided.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Fever, remittent—1 case of a missionary from Rivers, who died before reaching Freetown - -	4
Meningitis (sailor just landed) - - -	1
Sudden death, coroner's inquest - - -	1
	6

Small-Pox.

There was a serious epidemic of small-pox during the year throughout the Colony, but it was felt more severely in Freetown and at Sherbro. Every precaution was taken, vaccination being conducted extensively. The disease is introduced by native traders from the rivers.

2. *Rainfall.*

The rainfall for the year was 99·23 inches, as against 141·26 inches in 1894. The marked difference between the rainfall in 1894 and 1895 is worthy of note.

1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
217·43	154·74	143·99	145·24	121·14	133·61	145·78	168·06

3. *Governor's Tours.*

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lieut. H. L. Barker, A.D.C., and Captain J. N. Compton, late R.N., left Freetown on board the Colonial steamer "Countess of Derby" on the 30th January and landed at Waterloo, from whence he proceeded on a lengthy tour (some 600 miles) through the Mendi, Bonibali, Luawa, Kono, Koronko, Limba and Lokkoh districts, returning to Freetown, *viâ* Kambia, on the Great Skarcies River, on the 5th April.

The Water Supply.

This subject was considered by the Executive Council at a meeting held on 2nd October; a scheme having been prepared, together with plans, &c., for largely increasing the supply by Mr. T. E. Laing, Colonial Surveyor. It was then decided to approach the Municipal Council in the matter, and they agreed to the proposals made by Government, *i.e.*, that the Government should bear the initial cost, estimated at 12,500*l.*, and that the work should be started as soon as possible, under the superintendence of the Colonial Surveyor; also that the corporation should provide a sinking fund for the repayment to the Government of the money so expended within a given time, with interest, &c.

The matter was then considered by the Legislative Council and approved, the scheme being referred to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for sanction.

This is a very important question both in regard to the health of the town, the absolute needs of the inhabitants, and also in case of fire. With the present supply it is impossible to obtain sufficient water, during the dry season, to be of the slightest use in the event of a fire occurring, and in a town in which most of the houses are of wood plenty of water, with stand-pipes in the different streets, is most necessary.

Sierra Leone is the only Colony on the West Coast blessed with a pure and good supply of water, it is merely a question of collecting and distributing it throughout the town. Certain faults found in the pipes of the present small supply have already been remedied and the gradient improved. There is now a constant supply therefrom, both at the stand-pipes and in the few private houses which have been connected therewith, so that, as far as it goes, it is fairly satisfactory.

J. C. GORE,
Colonial Secretary.

May 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 208.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 170.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.

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1897.

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[C.—8650—6.]

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
175	Falkland Islands	1895
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong...	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 208.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 170 of this Series.)

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

ACTING GOVERNOR CAULFEILD to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
10th July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1896, which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore.

The Blue Book itself will soon be ready, but the Colonial Secretary informs me he is still waiting for Treasury Returns and Statistics from the Supreme Court to complete the compilation.

I have, &c.
J. E. CAULFEILD,
Administrator.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1896, OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

1. TAXES AND DUTIES.

Ordinance No. 18 of 1896, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1896, increased the Ad Valorem duty from 7½ to 10 per cent., and the Specific duty on Salt from 3s. to 8s. per ton. The duty on Sugar refined was reduced from 10s. per cwt. to 7s. 6d. per cwt., and on unrefined Sugar from 5s. per cwt. to 2s. 6d. per cwt., while Bread, or Biscuit in barrels, and Flour (both of which formerly came under the Ad Valorem duty of 7½ per cent.), are now charged for specifically as follows :—

Bread, for every 50 cwt. or fractional part thereof ...	3d.
Flour in barrels or half-barrels, for every 50 lbs. or fractional part thereof	3d.

There is still no export duty.

2. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The estimated Revenue for 1896 was £105,741. The sum actually realised fell short of this amount by £8,631 13s., being £97,109 7s.

The estimated Customs receipts were £86,760, whereas the sum realised amounted only to £76,888 9s. 7d., being £9,871 10s. 5d. below the estimate. The difference of £2,125 14s. 9d. between the total Customs receipts shown here and the figures shown under the head of Imports and Exports, viz.: £74,762 14s. 10d. is caused by the sum of £2,125 14s. 9d. being received at Sherbro during the last two days of 1895, for spirits withdrawn from bond there, and brought to account in the Treasury books in 1896, whereas it really formed a portion of the 1895 assets.

There were other losses under various heads of service amounting to £2,543 2s. 3d., but gains under other heads amounting to £3,782 19s. 8d., making the amount short realised as shown above, viz.: £8,631 13s.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for 1896 was £109,201 14s. 10d., whereas the amount actually expended was £116,182 18s. 9d., being £6,981 3s. 11d. in excess.

This excess was caused by unprovided for and unforeseen expenses, chiefly as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Anglo-French Boundary Commission -	4,112	0	0
Excess on vote for passages caused by invaliding of Officers, &c. - -	458	0	0
Excess on Governor's tours, i.e. Special Service Officer being appointed to accompany the Governor - -	719	0	0
Excess under head of Pensions - -	491	14	10
Frontier Police—Re-arming, &c. - -	705	4	10
Customs Department—Additional cost of Preventive Service, necessary on account of change in tariff - -	648	2	0
Purchase of Farm for Botanic Station -	660	0	0
Protectorate- - - - - - -	383	9	0
	£8,176	10	8

There were, however, savings under other heads of Service.

3. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets on the 31st December, 1896, exceeded the Liabilities by £19,355 7s. 3d.

N.B. This falling off in the excess of Assets is due to the fact that the Crown Agents for the Colonies advanced from time to time sums of money, amounting in all to £79,908 7s. 2d., in place of raising the loan authorized under the Railway Loan Ordinance to meet the expenses of the railway service (vide Copy of Statement attached).

4. PUBLIC DEBT.

£50,000 raised in 1871-73 for constructing Harbour Works, to be repaid in 1896-98. £25,000 was paid off in June, 1896, and there is sufficient to repay the remaining £25,000, but this cannot be done until June, 1898. The Sinking Fund for the redemption of the remaining £25,000 amounted to £24.550 3s. 3d. on 31st December, 1896.

5. MUNICIPALITY.

The Council consists of a Mayor and 15 Councillors, 3 of whom are appointed by the Government, the others being elected by the people.

COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st December, 1896.

ASSETS.	Amount.	LIABILITIES.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash in Colonial Chest on 31st December, 1896, as per Certificate of Board of Survey	3,706 0 10	Balance due to Crown Agents as per account to 31st December, 1896...	79,908 7 2
Cash in hands of Crown Agents as per Account to 31st December, 1896	10,164 13 3	Deposits	8,384 15 7
Advances due to Colony, including Sierra Leone Railway, £50,414 17s. 10d.	58,366 19 10	Do. Post Office Savings Bank...	38,437 3 8
Arrears of Revenue due...	331 17 11	Salaries and other expenses unpaid 31st Dec., 1896	7,552 6 9
Investments.			
General Service accumulated £42,629 13s. 4d. Cash paid in purchase	41,198 0 0		
Steamer Depreciation Fund accumulated £6,643 6s. 1d. Cash paid in purchase	6,695 3 1		
Post Office Savings Bank accumulated £33,613 16s. 5d. Cash paid in purchase ...	33,175 5 6		134,282 13 2
		Excess of Assets...	19,355 7 3
£	153,638 0 5	£	153,638 0 5

STATEMENT showing the outstanding LOANS, together with the amount of accumulated SINKING FUND on 31st December, 1896.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sinking Fund for Public Works Loan accumulated £24,550 3s. 3d. Cash paid in purchase	24,648 5 8	Loan due by Colony to Public Works Loan 1871-73 Redeemable in 1896-98	25,000 0 0
Excess of Liabilities...	351 14 4		
£	25,000 0 0	£	25,000 0 0

NOTE.—Reduction in excess of Assets due to Crown Agents advancing money required for Railway instead of raising same under Railway Loan Ordinance; to be adjusted when Loan is raised. £5,000 was invested for Savings' Bank in January, 1897.

Colonial Treasury, Freetown, 14th June, 1897

S. M. BENNETT, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

6. MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Colony does not contribute towards the up-keep of the Troops.

The Local Expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for the year amounted to £64,421 2s. 8d., as against £60,382 8s. 3d. in the previous year.

The Garrison consists of a European Detachment of Royal Artillery, a Native Battery of West African Artillery, a Detachment of Fortress Engineers, and a Battalion of the West India Regiment.

The Troops receive an allowance as compensation for Customs duties paid by them. This amounted to £1,279 14s. 6d. as against £1,338 last year.

There is no Militia.

7. THE SIERRA LEONE FRONTIER POLICE.

The establishment of this force in 1896 was as follows :—

1	Inspector General
6	Inspectors
5	Assistant Inspectors
5	Sub-Inspectors (Natives)
1	Sergeant-Major
1	Quarter-Master-Sergeant
1	Paymaster's Clerk
1	Orderly Room Clerk
5	Company Pay Clerks
20	Sergeants
20	Corporals
8	Buglers (boys)
450	Privates
524	

The Force, which is recruited from the Timini and Mendi tribes, is divided into 5 Companies, the head-quarters being in Freetown. Each Company consists of 1 Inspector, 1 Assistant Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 8 Non-commissioned Officers, and 90 Privates, stationed as under :—

A	Company,	Freetown and Ronietta	district.
B	,,	Bandajuma	,,
C	,,	Falaba	,,
D	,,	Karina	,,
E	,,	Pangumah	,,

Schools are established at head-quarters and in each district, for the instruction of those men who cannot read or write.

The Force is armed with the Martini-Metford carbine.

8. PUBLIC WORKS.

The Expenditure on Public Works, repairs to buildings, roads, streets, and bridges, amounted to £6,606 2s. 2d. as against £7,831 in the previous year, the sum estimated being £7,480.

No special Public Works were undertaken.

9. LEGISLATION.

34 Ordinances were passed during the year as against 20 in 1895, Nos. 1 and 2, i.e. "The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1896," and "Sierra Leone Railway Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1896," being necessary in order to raise the sum of £150,000 to start the first railway in British West Africa.

Ordinance No. 9.—"Human Leopard Society Ordinance." This was considered necessary in order to give greater facilities for the detection of Leopard Murders in the Imperri Country, and it appears to have had a good effect.

Ordinance No. 10.—"The Law Officers Ordinance, 1896." This was necessary on account of the abolition of the office of Queen's Advocate, and the appointment of two officers to be called the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General respectively.

Ordinance No. 17.—"The Sierra Leone Railway Ordinance, 1896." This was necessary to give power to the Governor to establish and maintain Railways, and to take and purchase lands for the same. It also empowers the Engineer to enter upon lands so taken and purchased, and to construct, maintain and repair Railways.

Ordinance No. 18.—"The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1896." This Ordinance was passed in order to increase the Ad Valorem duty from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent., the Specific duty on Salt from 3s. to 8s. per ton, and to reduce the duties on Sugar, Bread and Flour, and it came into operation from 1st August, 1896.

Ordinance No. 19.—"Foreign Service Employment Ordinance, 1896." The Ordinance was introduced to restrict the recruiting of labourers for service outside the Colony, and to control the same.

Ordinances Nos. 20 and 21, "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1896," and "The Protectorate Jurisdiction Delimitation Ordinance, 1896." These were necessary owing to the Protectorate proclaimed over the territories adjacent to the Colony on the 31st August, 1896, to determine the mode of exercising jurisdiction, and to define the limits of the said Protectorate.

Ordinance No. 33, "The Gold Coast Political Prisoners' Detention Ordinance, 1896." This was passed under instructions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State to confer on the Governor of Sierra Leone the necessary power for the detention of Ex-King Prempeh, deported from the Gold Coast, with other Political Prisoners, to be detained in Sierra Leone under legal custody.

The remaining Ordinances do not call for any special comment.

10. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes occurred in the Civil Establishment of the Colony during the year :—

The Honourable E. Bruce Hindle, Attorney General of the Gold Coast, appointed Chief Justice.

Honourable P. Crampton Smyly, Queen's Advocate, to be Attorney General.

R. J. Van Ryck De Groot appointed Solicitor General.

D. F. Wilbraham appointed Master of Supreme Court, vice Mr. de Groot promoted.

John Cleugh appointed Colonial Postmaster General.

W. E. Inniss, Colonial Surveyor, retired on pension.

F. H. Stone, C.E., appointed Chief Assistant Surveyor.

G. L. Brooks appointed Superintendent of Police, vice Captain Lapham, retired.

J. M. Robin appointed Inspector of Police, vice Mr. G. L. Brooks, promoted.

R. C. Grannum appointed Local Auditor, vice Mr. Cuddeford, promoted.

C. H. Hunter appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary, vice Mr. Faulkner, appointed District Commissioner.

Captain Mayne appointed Assistant Inspector Frontier Police.

Dr. F. Copeland appointed Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

A. G. Lloyd appointed Chief Clerk and Cashier, Treasury, vice Mr. M. A. Potts, retired.

J. C. Smith appointed Assistant Postmaster, vice W. Hughes appointed Assistant District Commissioner, Imperri, Sherbro District.

The Honourable Colonel Caulfeild, and the Honourable Lieut.-Colonel Gore, Colonial Secretary, received appointments as Deputy Governor, and Lieut.-Colonel Bayley as Administrator, during His Excellency's absence from Head Quarters.

The Honourable Sir Samuel Lewis, C.M.G., Kt., Mayor of Freetown, and Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, was appointed a Knight Bachelor on the 1st January, 1896.

11. PENSIONS.

The sum paid on account of Pensions and other retiring allowances in 1896 was £3,543 14s. 10d., as against £2,454 5s. 0d. in 1895, being an increase over last year of £1,089 9s. 10d.

12. POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been no Census taken since 1891.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of Births registered was 1,541 and Deaths 1,632, as against Births 1,445 and Deaths 1,509 last year.

13. ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are 130 Places of Worship belonging to the various Christian denominations in the Colony, and, according to the latest returns, the number of persons professing Christianity was about 42,000.

14. EDUCATION.

The number of Schools inspected and examined during the year 1895-6 was 67.

The Infant Department of the College School was inspected as a separate and distinct department this year.

The Mohammedan School, Fourah Bay, was visited quarterly during the year, and the Mendi Mission School, at Bonthe, was visited during the inspection of the Sherbro Schools.

The number of children present during inspection was 6,850—viz., 3,693 boys and 3,157 girls. This is a small increase over the number present last year.

The number of children on the School rolls at the end of the year is 8,280, and the average attendance 5,926.

The amount earned by the Schools under Government grants in aid was £1,345 14s. 11½d., as against £932 7s. 0d. last year—viz., an increase of £413 7s. 11d. This means an increase in 1895-6 to the School fund of upwards of £206, the other portion of the £413 7s. 11d. being an increase over last year to the teachers' annual bonuses.

The 1st Annual Competitive Exhibition of School Work was held on December 18th, 1895, at the Wilberforce Memorial Hall. The Exhibition was well attended by the public, and was very fairly successful. Twenty-four Schools (comprising 196 competitors) took part in the competitions in all the subjects on the list.

On the 17th December, 1896, the 2nd Exhibition of School Work was held, and the number of exhibits was twice the number as compared with that at the 1st Exhibition, which was very satisfactory.

Both the Annie Walsh School and the Technical School were represented on this occasion, with the view of encouraging the Elementary Schools, but, of course, not as competitors.

The Technical Institution was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 25th January, 1896, and did good work during the year in the advancement of technical education.

Two Weekly Newspapers, "The Sierra Leone Weekly News" and "The Sierra Leone Times," are published in Freetown.

15. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value, the direction of the trade of the Colony, and the Customs duties realized during the year 1896, are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
From the United Kingdom - -	403,053	7	7
" " British Colonies - - -	12,451	12	7
" " Foreign Countries - -	79,183	0	3
Total value - -	£494,688	0	5

	£	s.	d.
Customs duty, Specific - - -	52,669	1	8
" " Ad Valorem - -	22,093	13	2
Total duty - -	£74,762	14	10

There has been a net increase in the Imports generally, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
From the United Kingdom - -	66,638	19	4
" " British Colonies - -	6,697	3	5

as compared with last year and a decrease of Imports from Foreign Countries of £5,985 17s. 8d.

The net increase on Imports in 1896 is £67,350 as follows :—

(*a.*) Articles liable to Specific duty.

Ale and Porter - -	£1,122
Bread - - - -	261
Flour - - - -	2,750
Gunpowder - - -	1,404
Hardware - - -	6,412
Lumber - - - -	2,652
Medicines - - -	2,348
Oil, Kerosine - - -	976
Salt - - - -	1,490

Bread and Flour in barrels were for the greater portion of the year rated under Ad Valorem duty, but under Ordinance No. 18 of 1896 they became liable to Specific duty from the 1st August last.

(*b.*) Articles liable to Ad Valorem duty.

Apparel - - - -	£1,451
Beads - - - -	2,166
Cotton Goods - -	20,450
Haberdashery - -	3,267
Hats and Caps - -	487
Silk, Manufactured- -	565
Woollen Goods - -	1,255

(*c.*) Free Goods.

Calabashes - - -	£1,336
Country Cloths - -	455
Coals - - - -	4,323
Specie - - - -	11,673

The total value of goods imported by the Colonial Government was £26,574 as against £7,081 in 1895, showing an increase of £19,493, being chiefly the value of materials imported for the construction of the Railway.

There was a falling off in the value of importations by the Imperial Government to the extent of £8,836, which is more than double the decrease of the previous year.

The value of goods warehoused in 1896 was £71,471 as against £84,978 in 1895, a decrease of £13,507.

Goods entered for Home Consumption in 1896 were valued at £424,801 as against £370,479 in 1895, being an increase of £54,322.

The decreases in Imports were chiefly under articles liable to Specific duty, viz. :—

Refined Sugar - - - - -	£404
Geneva - - - - - - -	8,804
Rum - - - - - - -	7,737
Whisky, Brandy and other Spirits -	213

Notwithstanding the large diminution in the most important articles of commerce (Geneva and Rum) upon which a large proportion of the Revenue is derived, it is worthy of note that the increase in other items of trade have more than counterbalanced the loss and yielded an increase in the total volume of trade to the extent of nearly 16 per cent. The alteration in the tariff in regard to the levying duty on Spirits, by Ordinance No. 19 of 1895, which came into force on 1st January 1896, is mainly responsible for the above-mentioned decrease, and of the consequent loss of revenue on same; it is nevertheless gratifying to observe that a superior quality of Spirits is now being imported for consumption by the natives—an object aimed at when that Ordinance was introduced. Other merchandise imported from the United Kingdom amounted to £403,053 in 1896, showing an increase of £66,639, or 16½ per cent. over similar imports in 1895.

The Imports from British Colonies were valued at £12,452 in 1896, showing an increase of £6,698 over those of 1895, the value of which was £5,754.

The value of Imports from America was £36,187 in 1896 as against £33,416 in 1895, an increase of £2,771; from Germany £26,336 as against £33,426 in 1895; and from France £7,301 in 1896 against £8,403 in the previous year. The Imports from other Foreign Countries are unimportant. The total Imports from Foreign Countries were £79,183 against £85,169 in 1895.

Exports.

The total value of Exports in 1896 was £449,033 against £452,604 in the previous year, showing a decrease of £3,571 or about ¾ per cent.

Under the head of African Produce the following increases were noticed, viz. :—

Benni Seed - - -	£8,676
Gum - - - -	3,348
Hides - - - -	8,952

while the below-mentioned articles disclosed the decreases shown opposite them :—

Cola nuts - - -	£2,516
Ginger - - - -	1,989
Palm Oil - - -	5,845
Palm Kernels - - -	3,759
Rubber - - - -	7,744
Rice - - - -	1,752
Other articles - - -	3,622

The net decrease under African Produce amounted to £6,250 in 1896, when compared with the returns for 1895. This is in a great measure due to the action of some of the Native Chiefs in the districts of the Protectorate, who, being dissatisfied with the new fiscal arrangements in regard to the mode of levying duty on spirits, placed what is locally known as "Porroh Law" on the collection of Native Produce, notably Palm Nuts, *i.e.* the natives being prohibited from gathering and selling the products of their farms.

The total value of European Manufacture exported from the Colony in 1896 was £99,121 as against £96,442 in 1895, giving an increase of £2,679, which arose principally on Specie and Hardware.

The value of Exports to the United Kingdom was £203,495 against £206,873 in 1895, showing a decrease of £3,378.

British Colonies are credited with exports to the value of £21,895 against £21,792 in 1895.

Exports to America were valued at £1,110 against £1,117 in 1895. The trade with America shows that we receive thirty times more in value than we give back to that country, which is the principal source from which we get most of the lumber, kerosine, flour, and bread imported.

Exports to Germany amounted in value to £103,209 against £106,552 in 1895, and to France £26,891 against £26,310 in the previous year. The total exports to Foreign Countries amounted to £223,643 against £223,939 in 1895.

These figures prove that the bulk of our trade is with Europe, about half of the total value of which is taken to the United Kingdom.

16. SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at Ports in the Colony during the year 1896 was :—

	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels - - -	384	11,697
Steam „ - - -	391	562,933
	775	574,630

The number and tonnage of vessels cleared was :—

	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels - - -	371	10,405
Steam „ - - -	393	527,225
	764	537,630

SIERRA LEONE.
1896.

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1896 was: steamships, 1,090,158; sailing vessels, 22,102; giving a total of 1,112,260 tons.

Customs Revenue.

The total Customs receipts in 1896 were £79,328, showing a decrease of £8,190 when compared with 1895, which amounted to £87,518. The Ad Valorem duty was increased from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent. from 1st August 1896, and this gave an increase of £4,988 over the amount realized in the year 1895, but this was absorbed by the large deficiency in the sum realized on account of Specific duty, which was less by £12,804 than the amount collected in 1895.

There were also decreases of £55 and £236 respectively under Light Dues and Warehouse Rent.

17. AGRICULTURE.

The Botanic station opened last year has been extended and many plants new to the Colony have been introduced.

At the Agricultural Exhibition held this year, the Curator exhibited samples of Coffee, Cocoa, Fibres, Gum, &c., besides machinery for preparing Coffee for the market.

It has also been ascertained that there are large tracts of country in the Protectorate in which the valuable rubber-tree (Kickxia Africana) abounds.

18. GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of Prisoners committed to and received in the Gaols of the Colony during the year were:—

	1896.	1895.
Freetown Gaol - -	532	508
Sherbro - - -	88	115
Waterloo District - -	44	61
	664	684

The number of Prisoners sentenced during the year to Penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 402 as against 346 in 1895, and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 130.

The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1896 was 532, viz., 501 men, 24 women, and 7 juveniles.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 154, the number of admissions to the Gaol Hospital was 65, the daily average on the Sick list was 20, and there was only one death.

SIERRA LEONE.
1896.

The total annual cost of the Prison during the year was £2,873 4s. 10¾d., exclusive of Repairs and also of Prison Officers' Uniforms.

19. CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There were 1,324 persons charged before the Police Magistrate's Court during the year; of this number 439 were discharged for want of prosecution, 193 discharged on the merits after a hearing, 618 summarily convicted, showing an increase of 191 as compared with 1895, and 74 referred to the Sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 79 in the previous year.

The total number of offences against the person was 155, showing an increase of 15 over last year.

Larceny.—There were 150 cases dealt with summarily as against 126 in previous year, and 14 referred for trial as against 30 in 1895.

Burglary and Housebreaking.—There were 37 cases as against 30 last year.

In regard to the Sherbro District there was a decrease in the number of charges generally. The total number of persons apprehended by the Police was 226 as compared with 261 in 1895 and 272 in 1894.

There were 78 cases of Larceny, and 61 convictions, being a decrease of 5 as against last year.

There was on the whole a considerable falling off in crime in the Sherbro and Imperri Districts.

Other Offences.—There were 308 cases as against 155 in the previous year. This is probably in a great measure due to the vigilance exercised by the Police in enforcing the provisions of the Sanitary Ordinance, &c.

Drunkenness.—Only 20 persons were convicted for Drunkenness during the year, and this is, as the Police Magistrate remarks, "A matter for sincere congratulation considering the large population of Freetown," *i.e.* about 45,000.

20. HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various Hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,359, viz., 1,008 males and 351 females, and the number of deaths 158, viz., 107 males and 51 females.

The sanitary condition of the Hospitals was fairly satisfactory.

SIERRA LEONE.
1896.

Freetown Gaol Hospital.

The sanitary condition of the Gaol has been, as in the past, very satisfactory.

The average daily number of Prisoners on the sick list was 7.19.

21. LUNATIC ASYLUM.

There were 19 admissions and 9 deaths in the Lunatic Asylum.

The building is still in a very dilapidated condition and requires to be rebuilt.

22 CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Almshouses or other Charitable Institutions, but the Colonial Government votes annually £400 towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners.

The Princess Christian Cottage Hospital, opened in 1892, still continues to do excellent work and to be most useful.

23. RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &C.

The Sierra Leone Railway.

The construction of this railway between Freetown and Songo Town was commenced this year, and good progress was made under the local management of Mr. W. Bradford, 3½ miles having been completed, and 6½ miles laid out. Total expenditure to 31st December, 1896, £52,455 10s. 2d. This includes cost of preliminary survey, viz.:—£2,668 12s. 3d.

GENERAL REMARKS.

On the 1st of January a telegram was received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, notifying the fact that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased to confer the dignity of a Knight Bachelor on the Honourable Samuel Lewis, C.M.G., B.L., Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council and first Mayor of the City of Freetown.

On the 22nd of January was received the sad intelligence of the death at sea (on board H.M.S. "Blonde," on the 20th instant) of H.R.H. Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg. A Memorial Service was held in the Cathedral on that day, at which all Public Officials were present.

The Public Health.

The Public Health throughout the Colony was fairly good. There was a certain amount of small-pox introduced as usual through the influx of native traders and others from the interior during the dry season, and it was necessary to take every precaution to prevent its spread, particularly in the Sherbro District, where vaccination was extensively carried out.

The number of deaths among Europeans was, however, 11, as against 6 in the previous year, and 6 European Officials died, while 6 were invalided. The causes of death were as follows :—

1 Sunstroke.
2 Remittent Fever.
5 Malarial Fever.
1 Uremia.
1 Syncope.
1 Pistol shot wound, while temporarily insane.
—
11
—

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year was 176·07 inches as against 99·3 in 1895.

An alarming fire occurred on the early morning of the 9th January, being the work of an incendiary who was ultimately convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour. A block of buildings in Water Street was burnt to the ground, and at one time the vegetable market was in considerable danger.

The first Agricultural Exhibition was held on the 23rd January at the Wilberforce Memorial Hall. The exhibits comprised exportable produce, liquids, foodstuffs, preserves, vegetables, flowers, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, &c., &c. It was well attended.

Boundary between Sierra Leone and French Guinea.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Trotter, R.A., British Representative on the Sierra Leone Anglo-French Boundary Commission, left Freetown for the interior on the 16th December, 1895, accompanied by Lieutenant A. H. Tyler, R.E., Assistant Commissioner, and Dr. I. N. Paris, Assistant Colonial Surgeon. They returned to Freetown on the 5th May after completing their work.

Governor's Tours.

His Excellency the Governor accompanied by his Private Secretary left Freetown in the Colonial steamer on the 28th

January, en route to the hinterland, Mr. J. C. E. Parkes, Superintendent of Native Affairs, having started the previous day overland, viâ Waterloo, with carriers, stores, &c.

The Governor returned to Freetown by the Colonial steamer, which met him at Bonthe, Sherbro, on the 5th April, accompanied by Major S. C. Grant, R.E., who was attached to His Excellency's staff on special service, and Mr. J. C. E. Parkes, Superintendent of Native Affairs.

The route taken by the Governor on this occasion follows the course of the Rokel or Sell River as far as Benkia, thence through Matotoka to Makali, across the Kuniki country to Kro or Kruto, then due east to Tembi-Kundo, the source of the Niger, from thence due south along the Anglo-Liberian frontier to Kare-Lahun, thence through the Luawa and Bombali districts to Yandahu, and thence through Taiama, Bulma, Bandasuma, Bandajuma, and Mafue to Bonthe.

The Protectorate.

A Protectorate was proclaimed on the 21st August over the territories within the British sphere of influence adjacent to the Colony of Sierra Leone. On the 15th September, an Ordinance to determine the mode of exercising Her Majesty's jurisdiction in these territories, and intituled "The Protectorate Ordinance," was passed, and on the 16th of the following month, an Ordinance defining the limits and boundaries within which such jurisdiction for judicial and administrative purposes should be exercised was also passed.

For administrative purposes these territories now called "The Protectorate" were divided into 5 districts which coincide with those which already existed for purposes of Police control. The districts are styled Karene, Ronietta, Bandajuma, Pangoma, and Koinadugu.

The area of the Protectorate is about 30,000 square miles. There is no data by which to estimate its population, but it may be taken as between a quarter and half a million.

District Commissioners with their staffs were appointed, and the Protectorate Ordinance put in force the latter end of October.

Three Courts of Law are established in each district :—

1. The Court of the Native Chiefs.
2. The Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs.
3. The Court of the District Commissioner.

All Civil cases and the lesser Criminal ones arising exclusively between Natives are determined in the Court of the Native Chiefs.

The Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs has jurisdiction in all graver Criminal matters and offences arising exclusively between Natives, and the Court of the District Commissioner in all Civil and Criminal cases between Natives and persons not Natives, except Capital Offences, when the accused is committed to the Supreme Court of the Colony for trial, and also in the following cases, namely :—

Pretended witchcraft, slave-raiding, dealing in slaves, or cases arising out of faction or tribal fights, &c.

In all Civil and Criminal cases there is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of a District Commissioner under certain circumstances.

The Revenue of the Protectorate will be derivable from licences and a house-tax, and the latter tax will come into force on the 1st January, 1898.

The establishment in each district consists of a District Commissioner and his staff, a District Surgeon, and a Company of Frontier Police, with the exception that in the Ronietta District the Police force is of the strength of a half Company only.

Until the Proclamation of the Protectorate, order was maintained in the territories embraced by it by the Frontier Police, and within the last few years, this force has been the means of quelling all inter-tribal warfare and slave-raiding and bringing the country into a state of peace and security, and this good result has now been further enhanced by the establishment of British tribunals and administration, the effect of which is already apparent in the number of natives, who, owing to the confidence inspired by British rule, are moving from the districts along the coast further inland for the purposes of trade, and there is therefore every hope of an increasing development of the natural products of the Protectorate in the near future.

J. C. GORE,
Colonial Secretary.

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
8th July, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 234.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 208.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
206	Falkland Islands	1896
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	„
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	„
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
231	Barbados	„
232	Lagos	„
233	St. Vincent	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 234.

SIERRA LEONE.

Sierra Leone.
1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 208.)

Governor Sir F. Cardew to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House,
Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
10th June, 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1897, which has been prepared by W. J. P. Elliott, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
F. Cardew,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1897.

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

There is no change this year.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The estimated Revenue for 1897 was £106,231, including Protectorate, afterwards revised to £101,181; the sum actually realised was £106,009.

The revenue for 1896 was £97,109; thus there is an increase in 1897 of £8,899, made up as follows:—

——	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	76,888	82,887	5,999	—
Port, Harbour, &c.	3,364	3,367	3	—
Licences, &c.	5,435	4,728	—	707
Fees of Court, &c.	3,026	2,249	—	777
Post Office and Telegraphs	2,682	4,884	2,202	—
Rent of Government Property	218	199	—	19
Interest	2,658	2,763	105	—
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,761	2,809	48	—
Land Sales	69	—	—	69
Protectorate	5	2,119	2,114	—
			10,471	1,572
			1,572	
Net Increase...			£8,899	

Expenditure.

The estimated Expenditure for 1897 was £116,073, whereas the amount expended was £111,678, a saving of £4,395 having been effected.

This saving was effected principally under expenditure for

	£
Protectorate	3,524
Hospitals	945

The following return shows Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past ten years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.
	£	£	£	£
1888	63,035	63,288	—	253
1889	70,836	66,771	4,065	—
1890	73,708	63,056	10,652	—
1891	89,869	77,965	11,904	—
1892	86,866	83,852	3,014	—
1893	92,769	84,691	8,078	—
1894	98,838	93,100	5,738	—
1895	97,852	100,248	—	2,396
1896	97,109	116,183	—	19,074
1897	106,009	111,678	—	5,669

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

3.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets on the 31st December, 1897, exceeded the Liabilities by £14,046, but there is a falling off as compared with 1896, which is due to the deficit on general revenue account for 1897.

4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

This remained at £25,000, to be paid off finally in June, 1898, the Sinking fund being fully sufficient for this purpose. The authorised Railway Loan of £150,000 has not yet been raised, the Crown Agents advancing pending issue.

5.—MUNICIPALITY.

The Council consists of a Mayor and 14 Councillors, three of whom are appointed by the Government, the others being elected.

Its Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st October, 1897, stood as follows :—

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Office Fees	14	1	9
General Trade Licences	872	14	7½
Market Dues	300	2	11
Cemetery Fees	319	16	2
Miscellaneous Receipts and Sale of Empties	19	2	4½
Government Grant-in-Aid (from 20th August, 1896, to 30th September, 1897) at £1,800 per annum... ...	2,008	1	3
Total	£3,533	19	1

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	615	1	0
Buildings, Constructions and Repairs...	568	7	9
Works	197	16	6¾
Sanitary...	1,186	17	2
Printing and Stationery	309	15	7¼
Street Lights, including Diamond Jubilee Illuminations	1,131	5	7
Contingency	126	4	6
Total	£4,135	8	2

The Council opened its last financial year with a balance on hand of £2,109 11*s*. 6*d*., and its balance at the close was £1,508 2*s*. 4*d*.

No rates have as yet been levied.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Colony does not contribute towards the up-keep of the troops.

The garrison consisted of a European detachment of Royal Artillery, a Native Battery of West African Artillery, a detachment of Fortress Engineers, and a battalion of the West India Regiment.

The troops receive an allowance as compensation for Customs duties paid by them. This amounted to £947 7*s*. 9*d*., as against £1,279 14*s*. 6*d*. in 1896.

There is no Militia.

7.—THE SIERRA LEONE FRONTIER FORCE.

The establishment of this force in 1897 continued the same as last year, except that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State authorised an additional 50 men being enrolled towards the end of the year for a special purpose.

A detachment consisting of 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 12 privates, and a bugler, or 15 in all, proceeded to England on the 14th May to take part in the celebrations held in London in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign. They were all presented with the Jubilee Medal, and their conduct while in England was very favourably reported on. They arrived back on the 23rd July.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any importance were carried out this year. A new Police Station was built in the Kissy Road, at a cost of £450.

The total sum expended during 1897 was as follows :—

	£
Public Works, Extraordinary	1,848
Public Works, Recurrent	7,085
Total	£8,933

9.—LEGISLATION.

There were 17 Ordinances passed during 1897, as against 34 in the previous year.

The only Ordinances calling for remark were as follows :—

No. 9, an Ordinance to amend "The Protectorate Jurisdiction "Delimitation Ordinance, 1896," passed on the 8th June. This makes provision for the cost incurred by any plaintiff in any cause which was instituted in the Supreme Court of the Colony, and which became abated by virtue of "The Protectorate Jurisdiction Delimitation Ordinance, 1896," to be the plaintiff's costs in any cause which such plaintiff may institute in the Court of the Protectorate in respect of the same cause of action.

No. 11, an Ordinance to repeal an Ordinance intituled "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1896," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

This Ordinance was passed under directions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

10.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes occurred in the Civil Establishment of the Colony during the year 1897 :—

His Excellency Colonel F. Cardew, Governor, left for England on the 4th May on the usual six months leave of absence.

Colonel J. E. W. S. Caulfeild was sworn in as Administrator on 4th May.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore acted as Deputy Governor from 12th to 18th June, and administered the Government from 5th August to 10th September during the absence of Colonel Caulfeild, invalided to Grand Canary.

11.—PENSIONS.

The sum paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances in 1897 was £3,314 14*s*. 6*d*., as against £3,543 14*s*. 10*d*. in 1896.

12.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been no census taken since 1891.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of births registered was 1,241, and deaths 1,664; as against births 1,541, and deaths 1,632, in the previous year.

RETURN of BIRTHS and DEATHS for the YEARS 1888 to 1897.

Period.	No. of Births.	No. of Deaths.	Remarks.
1888	1,600	1,432	
1889	1,219	1,239	
1890	1,253	1,425	
1891	1,328	1,374	
1892	1,218	1,403	
1893	1,279	1,308	
1894	1,339	1,518	
1895	1,440	1,508	
1896	1,541	1,632	
1897	1,241	1,664	

13.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are about 130 places of worship belonging to the various Christian denominations in the Colony, and, according to the last returns, about 42,000 persons professing Christianity.

Several missionary societies are working within the Protectorate, besides missions from the native churches in Sierra Leone. The principal societies are the C.M.S. and the American Soudan Mission and two other American societies whose head-quarters are at Shengeh and Rotefunk respectively; the two latter Societies, in addition to Gospel work, are imparting an excellent industrial training to the natives.

14.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools inspected and "visited" was 72, as against 67 last year; 62 of these are on the annual grant list. Of the five visited, two have been received by the Board of Education, and are to be inspected for the first time for a grant next year. One (the Mohammedan School, Fourah Bay) receives a special quarterly grant.

The number of children present at these inspections and visits was 7,312, as against 6,850 in previous year, viz., 4,050 boys and 3,262 girls.

The enrolment for the year, according to the returns of the school managers, was 8,416—*i.e.* 4,423 boys and 3,993 girls, and the average attendance for the year was 3,163 boys and 2,720 girls, or a total 5,883, being 70 per cent. of the roll number.

The amounts of grants-in-aid earned by the assisted schools for all the subjects for which grants are allowed was £1,444 18*s.* 2*d.* as against £1,345 14*s.* 11½*d.* in previous year, showing an increase of £99 3*s.* 2½*d.*

The following are the heads under which grants have been made:—

—	1896.			1897.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Average Attendance	523	14	0	550	18	0
Industrial Training	—			25	0	0
For those in Junior Standards...	44	19	6	71	0	6
Standards Subjects (Elementary)	431	8	0	446	8	0
Do. (Optional)	16	16	0	22	12	0
Needlework	103	0	0	102	2	0
Good Passes	2	6	0	2	6	6
Organisation and Discipline	119	2	3	139	0	0
Merit Grant	91	10	0	98	0	6
Special Grant (Isles de Los)	50	0	0	50	0	0

The increase in the merit grant-in-aid for 1896 and 1897 is due to higher pecuniary inducement being offered for merit.

There has been little or no improvement in the standard of education during the past ten years, principally owing to want of efficiency, knowledge, and training in imparting the same on the part of the teachers.

The low rate of salary for teachers does not offer a sufficient inducement to young men to follow teaching as a profession.

A table showing particulars of education for the past ten years is hereunder given :—

Year.	No. of Schools Inspected or Examined.	No. of Scholars on Register.	Average Attendance.	No. of Scholars Inspected or Examined.	No. of Teachers Examined.	Grant earned.
						£ s. d.
1888	67	8,543	5,966	6,709	34	761 19 3
1889	69	9,222	6,498	6,984	28	805 16 0
1890-1	71	8,818	5,974	6,912	—	811 12 6
1892	72	8,526	5,984	6,856	9	711 5 9
1893	61	8,102	5,943	6,636	—	854 14 0
1894	62	8,389	5,956	7,014	7	988 16 0
1895	64	8,337	6,033	6,826	14	932 7 0
1896	67	8,280	5,926	6,850	20	1,345 14 11½
1897	72	8,416	6,355	7,312	17	1,444 18 2

The 3rd Annual Exhibition of school work was held at the Wilberforce Hall on the 16th January and opened by His Excellency Sir F. Cardew.

The exhibits were on the whole fairly satisfactory, but were very much less than last year. This was in a measure due to the fact that some of the secondary schools did not send anything, and that the Technical School had no stall, as on previous occasion.

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

15. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The Imports for the past year were valued at £457,389, a decrease of £37,299 as compared with value in 1896, which was £494,688. The decrease being principally on importations of :—

—	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and Porter	4,134	2,807	—	1,327
Ammunition	2,501	113	—	2,388
Apparel	9,189	10,410	1,221	—
Beads	8,212	7,159	—	1,053
Boots and Shoes	1,960	3,244	1,284	—
Brandy	1,071	1,375	304	—
Building Materials	2,362	44	—	2,318
Calabashes	1,599	767	—	832
Cement	863	2,879	2,016	—
Cigars...	1,212	1,634	422	—
Coals	16,651	13,083	—	3,568
Cordials	308	409	101	—
Cotton Goods	175,095	160,012	—	15,083
Country Cloths	2,500	2,925	425	—
Flour	10,131	9,801	—	330
Geneva	5,288	4,825	—	463
Gunpowder	3,480	2,106	—	1,374
Guns	1,252	1,019	—	233
Haberdashery	21,808	16,779	—	5,029
Hardware	38,957	42,624	3,667	—
Jewellery	772	379	—	393
		Carried forward ...	9,440	34,391

SIERRA LEONE.
1897.

Imports—continued.

—	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	—	—	9,440	34,391
Lard	1,920	1,509	—	411
Lumber	8,324	2,229	—	6,095
Medicines	5,093	3,427	—	1,666
Military Stores	2,922	10,658	7,736	—
Musical Instruments ...	1,449	1,190	—	259
Oil, Kerosine	5,065	3,136	—	1,926
Provisions	13,041	11,507	—	1,534
Rubber	40	1,422	1,382	—
Salt	11,567	9,000	—	2,567
Silk, manufactured	1,614	2,826	1,212	—
Specie...	22,389	6,045	—	16,344
Sugar	5,500	5,993	493	—
Telegraph Materials ...	2,686	114	—	2,572
Tobacco	19,147	24,654	5,507	—
Whiskey and other Spirits...	3,894	4,593	699	—
Wines	4,235	5,730	1,495	—
Woollen Goods	7,371	10,253	2,882	—
			30,846	67,765
Decrease on Sundry Goods				380
				68,145
Increase				30,846
Net Decrease				37,299

SIERRA LEONE.
1897.

The following table of Imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries shows comparative values for the past ten years :—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888	190,529	1,211	58,407	250,147
1889	210,800	1,110	65,871	277,781
1890	248,401	1,628	65,475	315,504
1891	286,772	1,980	77,651	366,403
1892	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117
1893	325,829	5,543	86,094	417,466
1894	381,248	11,012	85,765	478,025
1895	336,414	5,755	85,169	427,338
1896	403,053	12,452	79,183	494,688
1897	377,508	6,097	73,784	457,389

The following table shows Customs receipts for the past ten years :—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Other Receipts.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888	8,314	35,429	7,487	51,230
1889	9,317	39,717	7,445	56,479
1890	12,330	41,480	6,507	60,317
1891	17,770	52,228	4,429	74,427
1892	17,510	51,895	4,564	73,969
1893	17,838	54,333	4,211	76,382
1894	19,140	60,661	5,007	84,808
1895	17,106	65,474	4,939	87,519
1896	22,094	52,669	4,565	79,328
1897	24,386	58,489	4 218	87,093

SIERRA LEONE.
1897.

N.B.—The rise under the *ad valorem* duty in years 1896 and 1897 is due to increased rate of tariff, namely, 7½ to 10 per cent., brought into operation on 1st August 1896.

The fall under Specific in 1896 and rise again in 1897 is consequent on increased tariff on spirits to three shillings per liquid gallon, in January 1896, which caused merchants to previously withdraw spirits from bond in large quantities at old rate of duty; subsequently demands increased when stock became consumed.

Exports.

The value of Exports was £400,748, being a decrease of £48,285 as against 1896, which was £449,033, due partly to less African produce being brought to Freetown from the Northern Rivers included in French Guinea, and partly to the Poro Law being put in force in the inland districts during the early part of the year.

Subjoined is a ten years' comparative table:—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888	166,569	17,651	154,823	339,043
1889	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656
1892	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451
1893	166,055	30,480	202,129	398,664
1894	196,171	24,873	205,455	426,499
1895	206,873	21,792	223,939	452,604
1896	203,495	21,895	223,643	449,033
1897	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

Customs Revenue.

The total Customs receipts in 1897 were £87,093, an increase of £7,765 as against receipts in 1896, which were £79,328.

The increase is consequent upon more duty derived on importations as under :—

—	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and porter	572	425	—	147
Brandy	299	366	67	—
Cigars	722	913	191	—
Cordials	194	215	21	—
Geneva	5,603	6,556	953	—
Guns	89	157	68	—
Gunpowder	378	308	—	70
Hardware	2,570	2,284	—	286
Lumber	488	147	—	341
Oil, Kerosine	5,096	3,546	—	1,550
Rum	10,547	12,873	2,326	—
Salt	1,199	1,848	649	—
Sugar	1,658	1,638	—	20
Tobacco	17,744	21,148	3,404	—
Whiskey and other spirits ...	4,169	4,537	368	—
Wines	911	1,008	97	—
			8,144	2,414
Increase on goods liable to *ad valorem* duty ...			2,035	
			10,179	
Decrease			2,414	
Net Increase			£7,765	

16.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1897 was :—

—	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	313	7,720
Steam do.	373	534,401
Total	686	542,121

The number of vessels cleared was :—

—	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	335	8,282
Steam do	373	534,342
Total	708	542,624

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 was, steam vessels 1,068,743, sailing vessels 16,002, giving a total of 1,084,745 tons.

Subjoined is a ten years' comparative table :—

Year.	Entered and Cleared.		
	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1888	28,368	489,313	517,681
1889	20,286	568,885	589,171
1890	27,242	652,267	679,509
1891	28,535	813,988	842,523
1892	23,675	777,020	800,695
1893	26,481	720,031	746,512
1894	21,860	940,186	962,046
1895	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745

It will be observed that, in the past ten years, the aggregate tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared at the port has gradually increased to more than double the tonnage in 1888. This is due to more lines of steamers having made Sierra Leone a port of call, and the African Steamship Company and British and African Steam Navigation Company having increased their fleets as well as the size of their steamers.

Sailing vessels are not now so much used.

17.—AGRICULTURE.

There was no Agricultural Exhibition held this year, but an inspection of farms was made by the Curator assisted by some native gentlemen.

The Botanic Station has improved considerably, attention being turned principally to the cultivation of economic plants.

The rainfall for the year 1897 was 156·51 inches, as against 176·07 in 1896.

18.—GAOLS AND PRISONS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the gaols of the Colony during the year was :—

—	1897.	1896.
Freetown Gaol	479	532
Sherbro'	49	88
Waterloo	30	44
Total	558	664

The number of prisoners sentenced during the year to penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 353, as against 402 in 1896, and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 126. The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1897 was 479, viz. :—441 men, 30 women, and 8 juveniles ; as against 532, *i.e.* 501 men, 24 women, and 7 juveniles, in 1896.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 164 ; the number of admissions to the gaol hospital was 72, the daily average on the sick list was 21, and there were 11,489 attendances on out-patients.

The total cost of the prison up-keep during the year was £3,643 6*s*. 1*d*., as against £2,873 4*s*. 10¾*d*. in 1896, exclusive of repairs and prison officers' uniforms.

Prisons.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1888	637	74	8	719
1889	889	62	4	955
1890	577	46	—	623
1891	610	51	—	661
1892	555	31	9	595
1893	368	30	16	414
1894	505	29	6	540
1895	467	33	8	508
1896	501	24	7	532
1897	441	30	8	479

NOTE.—The above figures include convicted, untried, and prisoners committed into the Freetown Gaol during the year.

Gaol Hospital.

Year.	Total number of Prisoners in Gaol.	"Treated" in Hospital.	Total attendances on Out-Patients.	Deaths.
1888	965	121	689	6
1889	1,139	100	1,308	1
1890	782	142	4,521	—
1891	789	140	6,137	3
1892	736	246	8,310	5
1893	542	145	11,917	9
1894	637	79	Not known	—
1895	621	58	5,608	1
1896	674	68	7,974	1
1897	649	77	11,489	7

19.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There were 1,206 persons charged before the Police Magistrate's Court during the year. Of this number 459 were discharged for want of prosecution, 142 discharged on the merits of the case after a hearing; 538 summarily convicted, showing a decrease of 118 as compared with previous year; and 67 referred to the sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 74 in 1896.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 153, showing 2 less than last year.

Larceny	299
Burglary	46
Drunkenness	23
Other offences	314

Sherbro.

The District Commissioner reports as follows:—

The total number of apprehensions effected by the police was 114, as compared with 226 in 1896, or a decrease of 49·55 per cent., and if compared with 1895 the decrease is still more pronounced, being 56·36 per cent.

The total number of larceny cases was 45; of these 28 convictions resulted.

The returns, on the whole, show a great falling-off in crime within the immediate area of the Judicial Courts of Bonthe for the year under review, which is most satisfactory.

There were, however two very brutal murders, which occurred during the year 1897, whereby three persons' lives were lost, but it is very satisfactory to learn that there was no murder case connected with the Human Leopard Society, which it is hoped has been stamped out.

20.—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,435, viz.:—1,086 males and 349 females; and the number of deaths 205, viz.:—150 males, and 55 females.

The sanitary condition of the hospital was fairly satisfactory, but the building is old and not up to modern requirements.

21.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

There were 13 admissions during the year, as against 19 in 1896, and 9 deaths, as against 9 deaths in 1896.

22.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Almshouses or other Charitable Institutions; the Colonial Government votes £400 annually towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners, one being a Government Officer.

23.—RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &C.

The Sierra Leone Railway.

Construction commenced in January, 1896. The line is now open for transport of material for 11½ miles, and rails are down for 20 miles, but, owing to 7 large viaducts having to be completed between 11½ and 17½ miles through transport by rail is not yet possible.

These viaducts are expected to be finished by the end of March, 1898, when the line will be open for transport to Waterloo, 20 miles distant from Freetown, and by this time the last portion of the 1st section of the railway to Songo Town will be constructed.

It is expected that the whole of the first section, from Freetown to Songo Town, will be completed and open for traffic about August 1898. An extension of the line to Rotifunk, a further distance of 25 miles, will then be taken in hand, as well as, it is hoped, the proposed pier at Government Wharf, alongside of which ocean-going steamers will be able to take in and discharge cargo.

The health of the large staff of Europeans employed upon the railway has been fairly satisfactory, only one death having occurred during the last twelve months.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

A committee was appointed early in the year to consider the best and most suitable manner in which to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the Colony, and on the 4th June an Extraordinary number of the "Sierra Leone Royal Gazette" was published, giving a detail of the arrangements made.

On Sunday, June 20th, there was held Divine Service of Thanksgiving in all the churches throughout the Colony.

Monday and Tuesday, the 21st and 22nd of June, were observed as general holidays. On Tuesday, the 22nd of June, a special service was held in the Cathedral at 8 A.M., at which all public officers and others attended, and after the service a ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of a Jubilee park, to be called Victoria Park, and in the afternoon a levée was held at Government House.

In addition to these arrangements, all the school children and the poor of Freetown and the districts were entertained. Fortunately, the weather was very fine, and every arrangement passed off satisfactorily.

The Public Health.

The public health was not so good during 1897; in May and June there was a large amount of sickness both amongst the Europeans and Natives.

There was an outbreak of small-pox in the Western District, and special means were taken by the Government, and considerable expense incurred in dealing with this outbreak. A temporary hospital was erected, nurses engaged, and vaccination extensively carried out.

The number of deaths among Europeans was 19, as against 11 in the previous year, and six in 1895.

Fever :—	
Remittent	4
Remittent Malarial	3
Bilious Remittent	3
Bilious Malarial	1
Malarial	5
Blackwater	1
Hœmaturic	1
Suicide while temporarily insane	1
Total	19

The Protectorate.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate, which was derived from fines, forfeitures, fees of Court, spirit and store licences, amounted to £2,119 15*s*. 6*d*. as against an Expenditure of £5,796 16*s*. 4*d*. for administration, exclusive of the expenses of the Frontier Police Force, £21,229 14*s*. 5*d*., and Department of Native Affairs, £2,661 1*s*. 7*d*., which amounts should properly be charged against the revenue of the Protectorate.

It is estimated that as soon as the house-tax has been enforced throughout the Protectorate the total revenue derived will be sufficient to meet the total expenditure ; the Koinadugu and Pangoma Districts are exempted for the present from the house-tax.

W. J. P. ELLIOTT,

Colonial Secretary.

Freetown, Sierra Leone,

9th June, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 273.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 234.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
247	Grenada	1897
248	Gibraltar...	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados...	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia...	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics.

No. 273.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 234.)

ACTING GOVERNOR MAJOR NATHAN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Fort Thornton, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
22nd April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,
M. NATHAN,
Acting Governor.

SIERRA LEONE,
1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The estimated revenue for 1898 was £116,400, but the actual receipts were £117,681 18*s*. 3*d*., being an increase on the year of £1,281 18*s*. 3*d*.

The revenue for 1898 is the highest that has been received since the existence of the Colony, and, as compared with that of the previous year, there is an increase of £11,673 1*s*. 3*d*. The following comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1897 and 1898 shows that there has been an increase under nearly every head in 1898, but these increases do not call for any particular notice except in the case of the Protectorate. As far as practicable the accounts of the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate are kept separate from those of the Colony. The sources of revenue are: Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts, Store and Liquor Licenses, and House Tax.

The marked increase in the revenue of the Protectorate in 1898 over 1897 is due to the imposition of the house tax; on the other hand, there is a great falling off in the receipts for licenses as compared with the previous year, in consequence of the native rising in the Protectorate.

—	1897.			1898.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	82,887	5	9	84,592	14	6	1,705	8	9	—		
Port Harbour, &c.	3,367	5	0	3,473	11	0	106	6	0	—		
Licenses, &c.	4,728	4	1	5,263	3	9	534	19	8	—		
Fees of Court, &c.	2,249	16	3	2,106	2	5	—			143	13	10
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	4,884	3	5	4,916	2	5	32	7	11	—		
Rent of Government Property	199	18	8	237	17	6	37	18	10	—		
Interest	2,763	2	2	2,071	17	10	—			691	4	4
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,809	6	2	6,971	11	3	4,162	5	1	—		
Land Sales	—			294	10	0	294	10	0	—		
Protectorate	2,119	15	6	7,753	18	8	5,634	3	2	—		
Totals £	106,008	17	0	117,681	18	3	12,507	19	5	834	18	2

The estimated expenditure for 1898, including special votes, was £118,039 5*s.* 6*d.*, whereas the sum actually expended was £121,112 8*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase on the estimates of £3,073 2*s.* 8*d.* The increase on the expenditure for 1897 was £9,434 10*s.*

As the revenue for 1898 was the highest on record, so was the expenditure for the same year. This increased expenditure is mainly due to circumstances connected with the insurrection in the Protectorate.

The following table gives the chief heads under which there was an increase in the expenditure :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	608	15	0
Increase in the number of troops drawing the usual allowance. Drawbacks and refund of duties.			
Legal Department	375	6	3
Salary and expenses of Deputy Judge unestimated. Less savings under other heads.			
Civil Police	604	16	10
Special constables employed in Freetown during disturbances. Maintenance of criminals.			
Prisons	912	18	1
Excess in number of prisoners to be maintained.			
Miscellaneous Services	1,839	9	0
Protectorate	1,380	0	0
Military expeditions.			

Deficit.

The deficit for 1898 of £3,430 9*s.* 11*d.* will be met from the Reserve Fund.

The, on the whole, progressive increase in the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years—as shown in the following table—is due in the case of revenue to improved trade consequent on developments in the Protectorate, and in the case of expenditure to the necessary outlay connected with the opening up and proclamation of the Protectorate.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	98,838	93,100
1895	97,852	100,248
1896	97,109	116,183
1897	106,009	111,678
1898	117,682	121,112

Taxation.

It was estimated that the tax would amount to £8,000, and this sum has been more than realized. Owing to interruptions caused by the insurrection, the collection of the tax was not completed until the end of February, by which time, notwithstanding the difficulties of collection and further large exemptions, which were granted in cases of chiefs and their people, whose territory had suffered from the disturbances, it is computed that about £12,000 in coin and produce were paid in, but from this amount must be deducted the value of produce looted by the insurgents, which is estimated at £2,000.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets on the 31st December exceeded the liabilities by £15,908 1*s*. 2*d*.

Public Debt.

The last instalment of the loan raised in 1871–73 for the wharf at Freetown was paid in June. The authorised Railway Loan for £300,000 has not yet been raised, but £192,200 of the amount has been advanced, up to the 31st December, by the Crown Agents for the construction of the Government Railway, and it is anticipated that the loan will be floated during the current year.

Municipality.

The Municipality of Freetown was established in 1895, with a council consisting of a mayor and 14 councillors, of whom 3 were appointed by Government, the remainder being elected.

The council have powers, under the Municipal Ordinance, to levy a rate on the rental value of houses, but had not acted on them up to the 31st December; they have, however, passed a resolution to levy a rate during the current year. Up to the present the municipal revenue has been derived from office fees, general trade licenses, market dues, cemetery fees, and a Government grant-in-aid of £1,800 per annum.

The total revenue and expenditure for the financial year ending 31st October 1897 and 1898 are as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897...	3,533 19 1	4,135 8 2
1898...	3,560 17 3	5,405 0 5

The above figures show that the expenditure for the two years has exceeded the revenue for the same period by £2,445 12*s.* 3*d.*, but as the council had a balance in hand of £2,109 11*s.* 6*d.* on the 31st October to start with, their actual deficit on the 31st October 1898 was £336 0*s.* 9*d.*

At the close of the financial year there was a balance of cash-in-hand amounting to £51 4*s.* 6*d.*, but there were debts due by the municipality amounting to £387 5*s.* 3*d.* and further liabilities on account of the construction of the Krootown Market of £211 17*s.* 6*d.*

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The following table gives the values of imports and exports for the last five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894...	478,025	426,499
1895...	427,338	452,604
1896...	494,688	449,033
1897...	457,389	400,748
1898...	606,348	290,991

The value of imports is greatly in excess of previous years. As compared with 1897 larger quantities of military stores, coals, provisions, and specie were imported for the use of the troops and Her Majesty's ships engaged in suppressing the disturbances, but also there has been a large increase in wearing apparel, alcohol, and furniture ; on the other hand, there was a great falling off in the importation of beads, cotton goods, and tobacco, articles largely purchased by the natives of the Protectorate. Though the great excess in imports over previous years is mainly due to the importation of government and military stores, &c., on which no duty is paid, the fact that the Customs receipts exceeded those of any previous year since the formation of the Colony tends to show that there has been an increased consumption of dutiable articles by the public.

The following table shows the chief articles on which there has been a decrease or increase as compared with 1897 :—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Aerated and Mineral Waters	4,085	—
Apparel	13,353	—
Beads	—	2,780
Books and Stationery	4,351	—
Building Materials	7,829	—
Cartridges and their Cases	14,693	—
Coals	20,194	—
Cotton Goods...	—	25,338
Furniture	7,270	—
Geneva	2,666	—
Machinery	4,953	—
Military Stores	13,526	—
Provisions	10,391	—
Rice	8,196	—
Rum	2,089	—
Specie	39,083	—
Tobacco	—	8,393
Whiskey and other spirits	1,229	—

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

The following table of imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries for the last ten years shows that on the whole an increasing trade is done with the United Kingdom and British Colonies as compared with Foreign Countries :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889	210,800	1,110	65,871	227,781
1890	248,401	1,628	65,475	315,504
1891	286,772	1,980	77,651	366,403
1892	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117
1893	325,829	5,543	86,094	417,466
1894	381,248	11,012	85,765	478,025
1895	336,414	5,755	85,169	427,338
1896	403,053	12,452	79,183	494,688
1897	377,508	6,097	73,784	457,389
1898	512,098	12,733	81,517	606,348

As bearing on the return of imports for the last ten years, given above, the following table, showing the Customs receipts for the last ten years, is interesting :—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Other Receipts.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889	9,317	39,717	7,445	59,479
1890	12,330	41,480	6,507	60,317
1891	17,770	52,228	4,429	74,427
1892	17,510	51,895	4,564	73,969
1893	17,838	54,333	4,211	76,382
1894	19,140	60,661	5,007	84,808
1895	17,106	65,474	4,939	87,519
1896	22,094	52,669	4,565	79,382
1897	24,386	58,489	4,218	87,093
1898	24,245	60,359	4,919	89,523

The rise under *ad valorem* duty after the year 1895 is due to an increase in the rate of tariff from 7½ to 10 per cent. brought into operation on the 1st August 1896.

The fall in the receipts from specific duties in 1896 followed by a rise in 1897 is consequent on the increase in the tariff on spirits to 3*s*. per liquid gallon in January 1896, which caused merchants to previously withdraw spirits from bond in large quantities at the old rate of duty; subsequent demands increased when their stocks became consumed. However, owing to spirits being largely watered down for consumption in the Colony in consequence of the increased tariff, there has not been the proportionate increase in the receipts that was anticipated. Previous to January 1896 the duty on spirits was 3*s*. on the *proof* gallon and *pro rata* more or less as the spirit imported was above or below proof.

It would appear from the above return, and the two preceding ones, that at least the import trade has not been so adversely affected by the disturbances in the Protectorate as was naturally anticipated, and there has been an actual increase in 1898 in Customs receipts over those in any preceding year; in fact, the Customs receipts have never previously been so high as in last year.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports for the last ten years, showing the countries to which exported:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656
1892	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451
1893	166,055	30,480	202,129	398,664
1894	196,171	24,873	205,455	426,499
1895	206,873	21,792	223,939	452,604
1896	203,495	21,895	223,643	449,033
1897	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748
1898	117,726	30,948	142,317	290,991

Exports are classified under two heads, viz., African Produce and European Manufactures. The values under these heads for 1898 were respectively £254,467 and £36,524, as against £316,665 and £84,083 for the previous year. As compared with the previous year there was a falling off of 19·6 per cent. in the value of African produce in 1898, and unless the market values have fluctuated considerably it may be assumed that the percentage represents also the proportionate decrease in the quantity of such produce. This falling off was no doubt due for the greater part to the disturbances, but some of it must be attributed to the increased restrictions imposed in French Guinea on exports from that Colony, the chief article of which is rubber.

Mines.

There are no existing mines. Plumbago has been worked in the Bagru district of the Protectorate, but not, it would appear, with remunerative results.

There is evidence of the existence of gold-bearing quartz in the Protectorate, but it is doubtful whether the gold is in payable quantities ; however this can only be determined after the country has been further prospected.

Manufactures.

The only manufacture that has been started is that of ice and mineral waters by the West African Manufacturing and Development Company. The necessary plant has been laid down and it is hoped that the industry will be in full operation during the current year.

Fisheries.

Pearl oysters have been discovered along the coast line in the neighbourhood of Sherbro, but whether in sufficient quantities to make the establishment of a pearl fishery remunerative has not been ascertained.

Agricultural Industries.

Both Liberian and Sierra Leone coffee are grown ; and there are several extensive plantations of the former, and in most gardens may be seen a few coffee trees, but the methods of preparing the berry for the market are crude and in the process it often gets bruised and otherwise injured. Very little coffee is exported but there is a market for home consumption. Its cultivation and preparation will have to be carried out on a more extensive scale and with more scientific appliances than at present before it can command a price on the home market, and even then it is a question whether, owing to the expense of labour and production, it will be able to compete with coffee produced in the East Indies and elsewhere. At present its production can hardly be called an industry.

There is a large export trade in kola, which is an indigenous product, and the systematic planting and cultivation of kola trees gives promise of being remunerative; as also the cultivation of the rubber tree, which is also indigenous. At present the proper methods of collecting and preparing rubber for the market are unknown to the natives of the Protectorate, who in their ignorance cut down and destroy the trees and vines in the process of collection, and so crude are their methods of preparation that the value of the rubber is much depreciated.

Botanical Station.

At the Botanical Station, which is situated in Freetown, every effort is made by the curator to disseminate a knowledge of the culture of economic plants, a large number of which have been obtained from Kew and elsewhere and planted during the year. The station was only opened towards the end of the year 1895, but it has already produced good results in stimulating a desire in the Colony to cultivate economic plants, and an impulse has also been given to agriculture generally by holding agricultural shows, one of which took place in 1898.

It is in contemplation, as soon as the financial condition of the Colony admits, to establish a botanical station in the neighbourhood of Songo Town, with a view to more extensive cultivation of economic plants, and to connect with it a cattle and poultry farm. The native of the Protectorate has very little idea of right methods in rearing cattle.

Fruit Industry.

The curator is of opinion that fruit might be cultivated for export, such as pines, bananas, oranges, and limes, but the great drawback to such an industry is the want of regular and rapid steamship transport to Europe.

Land Grants.

In regard to land grants in the Colony the Governor is the authority empowered to grant waste land; all grants of land by the Crown are to contain reservations for roads and other public purposes. The tenure under which the occupation of Crown lands is sanctioned is, in the case of a Crown grant, fee simple,

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but occupation is also sanctioned under a squatter's license at a nominal rent, which tenure would be in the nature of a tenancy at will.

Under Ordinance No. 14 of 1886, real and personal property may be taken, acquired, held, and disposed of by any alien in the same manner in all respects as by natural born British subjects.

In the Peninsula and Isle de Los, town or village lots are to contain from three thousand to six thousand square feet with a frontage on the street of not less than fifty feet ; country lands not less than twenty acres or more than two hundred.

In Sherbro, town or village lots are to contain three thousand seven hundred and fifty square feet, or have a frontage of fifty feet and a depth of seventy-five feet.

Value of Land.

In the Peninsula and Isle de Los, town or village lots are sold by public auction at an upset price of twenty shillings ; suburban, at an upset price of ten shillings ; and country lands at an upset price of four shillings and twopence per acre.

At Sherbro, town lots are sold in such manner as the Governor may direct ; suburban lots at an upset price of ten shillings ; and country lands at an upset price of eight shillings.

There are no conditions regulating the re-sale of lands granted by the Crown.

The question of land grants in the Protectorate is still unsettled.

Shipping.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1898 were :—

—	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	141	5,082
Steam do.	372	551,830
Total	513	556,912

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The number and tonnage of vessels cleared were :—

—	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	125	4,924
Steam do.	368	548,392
Total	493	553,316

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1898 was : steam vessels, 1,100,222 ; sailing vessels, 10,006 ; giving a total of 1,110,228.

Subjoined is a comparative table of tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the last ten years :—

Year.	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1889	20,286	568,885	589,171
1890	27,242	652,267	679,509
1891	28,535	813,988	842,523
1892	23,675	777,020	800,695
1893	26,481	720,031	746,512
1894	21,860	940,186	962,046
1895	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745
1898	10,006	1,100,222	1,110,228

It will be observed that in the last ten years the aggregate tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared at the port has gradually increased to nearly double the tonnage in 1889. This is due to more lines of steamers having, from its increased importance, made Sierra Leone a port of call, and the two lines of African Steamship Companies having increased their fleets as well as the size of their steamers. It is to be noted, on the other hand, that the tonnage of sailing vessels has diminished by more than one-half during the last decade.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 39 Ordinances passed during 1898, as against 17 in the previous year.

The principal measures passed are as follows :—

No. 2. An Ordinance for raising a further sum of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds for the construction and equipment of a railway from Songo Town to Rotifunk. This was necessary to enable the Government to continue the Sierra Leone Railway into the Protectorate, the first £150,000 authorized to be raised being only sufficient to carry the line as far as Songo Town, which is on the border of the Colony.

No. 13. An Ordinance to organize and establish a Volunteer Force in the Colony of Sierra Leone. This measure was considered necessary for the time being, in order to provide for the defence of the Colony owing to the insurrection in the Protectorate and the consequent necessity for sending most of the regular troops to the front. The force was disbanded by Proclamation dated the 15th September, after the suppression of the insurrection.

No. 14. An Ordinance to empower the Governor to apprehend and detain such persons as he shall suspect of conspiring against Her Majesty's Government. This was necessary owing to the insurrection which at the time existed in the Protectorate and some parts of the Colony.

No. 17. An Ordinance to regulate the law relating to the carrying and possession of arms and ammunition for the preservation of the public peace in the Protectorate. This was passed owing to the insurrection in the Protectorate.

No. 19. An Ordinance to authorize the inspection of stores and other places in which firearms, ammunition, and gunpowder may be kept under "The Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordnance, 1892." This was considered desirable, as there was no provision for inspection under existing law.

No. 21. An Ordinance to confer certain powers on the Commissioner appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into an insurrection of natives in the British Protectorate adjacent to the Colony of Sierra Leone, and generally into the state of affairs in the said Colony and Protectorate. This Ordinance was necessary to enable Sir D. P. Chalmers, the Commissioner so appointed, to carry on his inquiry.

No. 26. An Ordinance to further amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881." This was passed in order to provide for sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of criminal offences arising within the Protectorate of Sierra Leone at such places in the Colony or Protectorate and at such times as shall be duly appointed, and also for the trial of cases in the Protectorate by the Court and Assessors, and further it provides for the expression "Court" including a Deputy Judge thereof, and for the appointment of a Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Master.

No. 34. An Ordinance to incorporate the chapter of the cathedral church of St. George at Freetown in the Colony of Sierra Leone, to vest the said cathedral in the said chapter, and for other purposes in connection therewith. This was necessary owing to the revocation of Letters Patent dated May 22nd 1852, under which prior Bishops of Sierra Leone were appointed, and to enable the Government to hand over the cathedral to a cathedral chapter.

No. 38. An Ordinance to establish a force of natives of West Africa within the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, and to provide for its discipline. This regiment was organized this year under authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and in conjunction with the War Office.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The number of schools inspected and "visited" was 69, as against 72 last year; of these 69 schools, 33 are Church of England, 19 Wesleyan, 8 United Methodist Free Churches, 3 Countess of Huntingdon, 2 Roman Catholic, and 4 others.

The number of children present at these inspections was 6,852, as against 7,312 in previous year, viz., 3,813 boys and 3,039 girls out of 8,679 on the registers.

The school income for the year from all sources is £5,258 10*s.* 5½*d.* This is £505 18*s.* 11¾*d.* over the preceding year.

The expenditure is £5,009 19*s.* 11½*d.*, an increase of £550 13*s.* 7*d.* over last year. This amount includes the cost of building (*i.e.*, Kissy Wesleyan School and Bathurst Street Infant School Extension).

Taking the amounts as they stand, they show that the various denominations raised an income about 17*s.* 3*d.* per head and spent 16*s.* 6*d.* per child.

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The amounts received from the various sources are :—

—	1896 7. £	s.	d.	1897–8. £	s.	d
Government Grants-in-aid	1,343	10	3½	1,498	12	9
School Fees	907	6	8	898	9	9
Class Collections	731	5	3¾	793	3	7½
Voluntary Subscriptions	171	6	5½	615	1	11¾
Society Grants	1,249	0	4½	1,034	1	1
Miscellaneous	68	19	7¾	33	12	9¾
Balance from previous year	260	14	3¾	394	8	5½
Total ... ... £	4,732	3	0	5,267	10	5½

The amount of grants-in-aid earned by the assisted schools for all the subjects for which grants are allowed was £1,439 0*s*. 10*d*., as against £1,444 8*s*. 2*d*. in previous year, showing a decrease of £5 7*s*. 4*d*. as follows :—

—	Grants-in-aid, 1897. £	s.	d.	Grants-in-aid, 1898. £	s.	d.
Church of England	584	19	8	600	14	0
Wesleyan	403	8	3	483	4	0
U. M. F. Churches	168	15	3	153	13	8
Countess of Huntingdon	54	0	6	12	15	0
Roman Catholic	98	17	6	89	6	4
Wilberforce Street	52	9	3	—		
Other Schools	82	7	9	99	7	3
Total ... ... £	1,444	18	2	1,439	0	3

The above returns relate to primary education, which is of a very non-progressive character, both as regards the standard, which is very low, and the number of children under instruction.

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A large proportion of the teachers are quite untrained and uncertificated; of those who held certificates by far the greater number only possess 3rd class certificates. Until the teachers are properly educated themselves, and also trained in the art of imparting instruction, no improvement can be looked for in the standard of education amongst the children under tuition.

An exhibition of school work has been held annually since 1894, but the improvement in exhibits has not come up to expectations.

Secondary Education.

There are several schools, such as the Church Missionary Society Grammar School, Wesleyan High School, Annie Walsh School for Girls, and others in which secondary education is imparted.

Higher Grade Education.

Higher grade education and theological training are given at the Furah Bay College, an institution which is carried on by the Church Missionary Society.

Technical Schools.

The Technical School in Freetown, which was opened in 1896, continues to do very good work. A night school was established in 1898, and a course of free lectures were given to apprentices, artisans, and mechanics, and were fairly well attended.

Instruction in carpentering and building is carried on at several of the American mission stations in the Protectorate, and it is hoped that with Government grants-in-aid other missions may take up similar work.

In conclusion, the schools for secondary education may be classed as fair; the young men who become graduates of Furah Bay College receive a high class education, and there are a certain number of young men who are educated in England at the universities and elsewhere for professions of the Church, Law, and Medicine, in which some afterwards show conspicuous ability. In the upper classes, therefore, a good education can be obtained, but it is amongst the masses that the standard of education is so low and so non-progressive in character. It is more than doubtful, notwithstanding the liberal Government grants-in-aid, whether the present generation are so well educated as the previous one, in which the children were taught by the European missionaries, without grants-in-aid, and not by teachers, as at present, who in the majority of instances have neither the requisite knowledge nor training to fit them for their work. Also as regards the number of children under instruction there is no increase, for the school returns show that in proportion to the increase of the population there are not nearly so many children on the rolls as in former years. The greatest needs, at present, of the Colony and Protectorate for the mental training of the people and fostering in them habits of industry are sound elementary school teaching and technical and industrial training.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,617 as against 1,433 in the previous year, viz., 1,282 males and 335 females; the number of deaths was 203 as against 205 in the previous year, viz., 146 males and 57 females.

There were 14 deaths among the European population last year, 8 of these being from malarial fever.

The sanitary condition of the hospitals was fairly satisfactory, but the hospital in Freetown is old and dilapidated and far from being up to modern requirements. However, this may be said of most of the Government buildings in Sierra Leone.

Asylums.

The Lunatic Asylum, which is situated in Kissy, is very old and ill-adapted for its purpose. Extensive repairs are being effected in the building. There were 25 admissions during the year as against 13 in 1897, and 9 deaths as against the same number in 1897. This asylum has hitherto been the only institution of the kind in the British West Coast Colonies, and in consequence lunatics from those other Colonies are received and treated in it.

Poor Houses.

There are no Government poor houses or other charitable institutions, but the Colonial Government votes £400 annually towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners, one being a Government officer. The funds of the Princess Christian Hospital, which is a Church of England Diocesan institution, are assisted to a small extent by the Government. The hospital is admirably conducted, and supplies a much-felt need in the most crowded part of Freetown and gives gratuitous treatment to the poor classes; it has a ward for paying patients—both European and native—who are admitted at very moderate rates. Many Government and railway officials have been treated in this hospital. It also provides a training for young native women as nurses.

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Savings Bank.

There is a Government Post Office Savings Bank, and on the 31st January 1898 there were 3,287 depositors, the balance due to them less interest being £41,187 7*s.* 4½*d.* This institution is much appreciated by the public, and the number of depositors is increasing.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Civil Police.

The civil police consist of an European Superintendent and Inspector, and 269 men of other rank who are natives. This force is employed in Freetown and the districts of the Colony.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the gaols of the Colony during 1898 was 900, as against 558 during the previous year. This large increase was due to the insurrection.

The number of prisoners sentenced during the year to penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 434, as against 353 in 1897; and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 225. The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1898 was 659, viz., 633 men, 21 women, and 5 juveniles; as against 479, *i.e.*, 441 men, 30 women, and 8 juveniles, in 1897.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 199; the number of admissions to the Gaol Hospital was 65, the daily average on the sick list was 15, and there were attendances on out-patients. There were 8 deaths during the year.

Industrial work, tailoring and shoemaking, has been introduced in Freetown Gaol, and the clothing of the civil and Frontier Police is now made up in it.

The building is in a very dilapidated condition and unsuited for a prison. A new one is to be constructed as soon as the funds of the Colony admit.

Criminal Statistics.

There were 1,486 persons charged before the Police Magistrates' Court during the year Of this number, 508 were discharged for want of prosecution; 173 discharged on the merits of the case after a hearing; 767 summarily convicted, showing an increase of 129 as compared with the previous year; and 38 referred to the Sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 67 in 1897.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 267, showing 144 more than last year.

Larceny	197
Burglary	18
Drunkenness	38
Other Offences	247

In Sherbro the total number of apprehensions effected by the police was 201, as compared with 114 in 1897, or an increase of 76·31 per cent. over the previous year.

The total number of larceny cases was 60, on which 59 convictions followed, against 28 convictions in 1897, or an increase of 110·7 per cent.

There were 56 persons committed for trial, all of whom, with one exception, were in connection with the rebellion.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

Population.

There has been no census taken since 1891, when the population of the Colony was registered as follows :—

White	224
Coloured	74,611
Total ...	74,835

Owing to the immigration of natives from the Protectorate and natural increase, the population of the Colony may be estimated at about 100,000, and that of Freetown at about 40,000 ; but the population of Freetown fluctuates considerably, owing to the influx during the dry season of natives from the Protectorate, who come to seek employment as labourers.

The population of the Protectorate may be roughly estimated at about one million.

Public Health.

Owing to defective registration and the ignorance and prejudice of a large class of the population, particularly the aborigines, who crowd into the Colony, statistics regarding public health are very unreliable and no definite conclusion can be arrived at.

Sanitation.

There is no effective sanitary system. There is a Sanitary Department under the Municipality of Freetown ; it does its best, but with an insufficient staff and want of legal powers to compel sanitary observances, it is quite unable to cope with the existing evils. There is no system for the removal of sewage or night soil, which accumulate in cesspits till the whole city is honeycombed with them and wells and springs polluted. The question of sanitation is under investigation by the Government, and a scheme is being considered for the removal of the sewage and the purification generally of the city.

Water Supply.

The water supplied to Freetown is thoroughly good, but the quantity is quite insufficient; there are, however, springs in the hills above the city from which a sufficient supply can be obtained, and during the year a study was made by an engineer, sent out from England for the purpose, and he has since submitted a scheme for increasing the supply.

Climate.

There are two seasons, the rainy and the dry. The total rainfall for the year 1898, as taken at the Military Hospital, Tower Hill, was 144·64 inches. Taking the last ten years the average annual rainfall is about 164 inches. As a rule rain commences in April, usually accompanied by tornadoes or violent thunderstorms (there are occasional tornadoes in March), but the rain begins to fall steadily in May, during which month the average is about 14 inches. After September the rain decreases, but the dry season cannot be said to commence until November, when the average rainfall is about 4 inches.

The atmosphere during the rainy season is excessively damp; everything is affected by it, including clothing, boots, &c., and fires of charcoal or wood are very often necessary to counteract its influence.

During the months from December to February the wind known as the Harmattan is prevalent. This wind comes from the Sahara and is very dry; it generally brings with it a fine dust. Natives and many Europeans, particularly those who have been in West Africa for some years, find it very trying, but Europeans generally consider it healthy.

Temperature.

During the year 1898 the maximum temperature in the shade was, in Freetown, 89, and the minimum 61·3. The average shade temperature throughout the year at 9 a.m. is 81. The shade temperature taken at Pangoma Station, in the Protectorate, was: maximum 87, minimum 55.

Direction and Force of Wind.

Westerly and south-westerly winds prevail generally throughout the year, but especially during the rainy season. In October, November, and December north-westerly winds are common, and in December, January, and February easterly and north-easterly winds prevail. During the dry season and when the Harmattan is not blowing, land and sea breezes alternate with considerable regularity; the sea breeze sets in in the morning and lasts till near sunset, when the land breeze commences.

The wet season is the most unhealthy part of the year, particularly at its commencement and close, more especially at the former period.

Fever is very common, and dysentery and diarrhœa are prevalent in places where good water cannot be obtained.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The receipts of the Postal Department exceeded its expenditure by £740 16*s.* 4*d.* Arrangements were set on foot to extend the postal system into the Protectorate during the current year.

Preliminary arrangements were made to open a telegraph service in connection with the railway during the current year; also to connect the public offices with a telephone.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Regular Forces.

The Colony does not contribute to the up-keep of the regular forces in the command, which in 1898 cost the Imperial Government for local expenditure £16,434 17*s.*

In 1898 the garrison consisted of a detachment Royal Artillery, a native battery West African Artillery, 1st battalion West India Regiment, four companies 3rd battalion West India Regiment, a detachment Army Service Corps, and a detachment Army Ordnance Corps.

In addition to the above troops, a native battalion, called the 1st battalion West African Regiment, was raised and recruited from the tribes of the Protectorate, chiefly Mendis and Timinis, the officers being appointed from regiments in England and seconded for the service.

Volunteers.

A volunteer corps, strength 100 privates, was enrolled to assist in the defence of Freetown and the Colony during the insurrection in the Protectorate should their services be required. This force was disbanded by Proclamation on the 16th September, consequent on the suppression of the insurrection.

Frontier Police.

The Frontier Police consisted of 12 European officers—augmented to 17 during the year by the appointment of 5 additional assistant inspectors—and 611 native sub-officers and privates. It is organized into 5 companies of 110 privates each, and one company is posted in each of the five districts of the Protectorate. The cost of the force amounted to £20,634.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Insurrection in the Protectorate.

The year 1898 was unfortunately remarkable on account of an insurrection in the Protectorate.

The causes of the insurrection have been made the subject of an enquiry and report by Sir David Chalmers, who was sent out to Freetown as Royal Commissioner for that purpose.

The insurrection commenced in February in the Karene District through the refusal of a chief, called Bai Bureh, to pay the house tax when required to do so by the District Commissioner. As the Frontier Police in the district were in too weak force to compel the obedience of this chief, whose followers had been reinforced by large numbers of "war boys" from the surrounding countries, troops were despatched to the scene of the disturbance. Owing to the difficult and wooded nature of the country and the obstinate resistance of the insurgents, the operations became protracted into the rainy season, and it was not until the 21st November that Bai Bureh was captured by a detachment of the West African Regiment, which had lately been raised.

Whilst the operations against Bai Bureh were taking place, disturbances broke out in the Kwaia and Bumpe Districts, which were, however, speedily and effectually suppressed during the month of March by the Frontier Police.

On the 28th of April, however, a general and simultaneous rising took place throughout the Mendi Districts, which was commenced by an attack by the insurgents on a small detachment of Frontier Police at Kambia. From that time, and for several weeks, all communication with the head-quarters of the Ronietta, Pangoma, and Bandajuma Districts, which were each held by a company of Frontier Police, were cut off, but columns consisting of portions of the 3rd battalion West India Regiment, a detachment of which had recently arrived from St. Helena, some hastily raised levies for the West African Regiment, and some Artillery, were rapidly organized and despatched to the front under command of Colonel E. Woodgate, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops, and Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Cuningham, D.S.O.

In these operations the beleaguered head-quarters, Kwalu, Bandajuma, and Pangoma, were successively relieved, the latter by a force of Frontier Police from Kwalu, under Captain E. D. F. Fairtlough, D.S.O., and the rising in the Mendi Districts completely suppressed by the commencement of July. These operations, thus brought to a successful conclusion, were carried out during the height of the rainy season, and in a very trying and unhealthy climate, against a numerous enemy expert in bush warfare.

Her Majesty's ships, "Fox," "Phœbe," "Blonde," "Tartar," and "Alecto," co-operated with the land forces during the insurrection, and rendered most valuable assistance by sending boat expeditions up the rivers and creeks along the coast line and covering the advance of Lieut.-Colonel Cuningham's column up the Jong River.

After the suppression of the insurrection in the Mendi Districts active operations practically ceased, except in the Karri country, where Bai Bureh was a fugitive with a few followers. The law was reasserted by the trial of the insurgent chiefs and headmen by Mr. G. A. Bonner, who was sent out from England and appointed a Deputy Judge for the purpose, at sessions of the Supreme Court held successively at Kwalu, Bonthe, and Bandajuma.

As it was necessary to re-establish British authority and prestige in the remoter parts of the Protectorate, where the face of the white man was hardly known and the only evidence of British power had been the passing of an occasional small detachment of Frontier Police, it was decided to send small expeditionary columns, each consisting of a company of the West African Regiment and a small detachment of Artillery, throughout the length and breadth of the Protectorate.

These columns started from Port Lokko, Freetown, and Bonthe respectively, the advance commencing in December. The marches were timed for the various columns to concentrate simultaneously along the Anglo-Liberian frontier east of Pangoma, across which the Kissis—a formidable tribe in Liberian territory, and amongst whom certain insurgent chiefs had taken refuge—were reported to be threatening to invade the Protectorate. This report was subsequently confirmed by

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the Kissis actually raiding across our frontier, but as they did so they were caught on three sides by the converging columns, and, after some resistance, driven back and followed up into their own country, and their capital and other towns burnt. These operations, in the absence of Colonel E. Woodgate, who unfortunately had to be invalided home, were most successfully carried out under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Cuningham.

The columns all returned to Freetown by the end of February of the current year, and all military operations have since ceased.

Our losses during the suppression of the disturbances and the subsequent military expeditions were as follows :—

—	European Officers.	N.C.O. and Men.	Carriers.
Killed	4	65	92
Wounded	23	184	58

Railway.

The Colony now possesses a railway, which is called "The Sierra Leone Government Railway." Its construction was commenced in January 1896. The line has not yet been formally opened for regular traffic, but there is passenger traffic between Freetown and Waterloo and material trains for construction purposes run as far as Songo Town. A passenger train to Waterloo is despatched every Saturday from the chief station in Water Street, Freetown, and it has been considerably used by the public. The railway was much used during the disturbances in the Protectorate in transporting troops and stores to the front.

An extension of the line to Rotifunk, a distance of 25 miles from Songo Town, is being carried out and a preliminary survey from that place, through Moyamba, towards Mano has been commenced. The disturbances in the Protectorate naturally hindered the construction of the line to a considerable extent while they lasted.

During the year 1898, £30,548 12*s*. 8*d*. was expended in salaries to railway officials and labourers as under :—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Salaries, &c. of Europeans	13,924	1	1
Wages to labourers (natives)	16,624	11	7
Total ...	£30,548	12	8

Roads.

Except in Freetown there are no metalled roads either in the Colony or Protectorate, and consequently the question of transport is a great difficulty. Up to the present all produce and merchandise have had to be transported on men's heads at an enormous proportionate expense. Given hard roads suitable for vehicles it is still very doubtful whether draft animals, either oxen or mules, could live and work in the climate of Sierra Leone, and besides the first cost and maintenance of such roads would entail an expenditure perhaps little short of that of the construction and maintenance of light railways. It would appear that for Sierra Leone the light railway is the cheapest and most economical means of transport, but in the future, when motor cars become perfected, there seems no reason why they should not be used for traction purposes where the railway does not run, but of course they would necessitate metalled roads.

Immigration.

There is a great influx into the Colony from the Protectorate annually of natives seeking labour after their crops have been harvested, and until it is time for them to return home to prepare their farms for the ensuing crop. This period extends from about the end of October till March. A portion of these natives remain and take up their abode in the Colony.

Emigration.

A considerable number of natives still emigrate annually down the coast seeking labour at the Congo and elsewhere; but the majority of these usually return after an absence of from two to three years.

Prospects of Trade.

As has been already stated, there was a considerable falling off in exports in 1898 owing to the insurrection, but on the other hand there was an appreciable increase in imports, other than naval, military and Government stores, coals, and specie, as compared with any previous year, and, order having been restored in the Protectorate, it is to be hoped that the great disproportion between exports and imports which existed in 1898 will be adjusted in the near future by an increase in the former.

Notwithstanding the restrictive tariffs placed on the export of African produce into the Protectorate in the adjacent French Colony of French Guinea, which completely cut off our trade with the upper Niger territories, the future prospects of trade may be considered good, owing to the developments which are taking place in the Protectorate itself.

Climate.

The unsuitability of the climate for Europeans is notorious, but there is abundant medical testimony to show that people with temperate habits, both in eating and drinking, may enjoy fairly good health. It is the general opinion that the more inland districts of the Protectorate, viz., Koinadugu and Pangoma, are more healthy than those nearer the coast.

Rates of Wages.

The rates of wages for native labour in Freetown varies from 15*s.* to 30*s.* a month. The wages of labourers on the railway works have recently risen from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day; this rise was consequent on the great demand for carriers for the military expeditions, who were paid at the rate of 1*s.* 3*d.* a day inclusive of rations.

Cost of Living.

The cost of living for Europeans has much increased of late years in consequence of the rise in servants' wages, rent, and articles such as meat, poultry, eggs, &c.

Openings for Investment of Capital.

Various concessions for the cultivation and collection of rubber and other vegetable produce, and mining for gold and other minerals, have been obtained from native chiefs in the Protectorate by speculators, and may be regarded as openings for the investment of capital, but, with one exception, circumstances have not as yet admitted of the areas conceded being exploited or worked.

General Condition of the Colony.

Considering the serious insurrection which took place during the year in the Protectorate and parts of the Colony and the concomitant loss of life and property and destruction of trade, the Colony and Protectorate have recovered in an unlooked-for manner from the shock, and though a return to the normal condition of affairs, as well as a complete rehabilitation of trade, may not be immediately looked for, still, in view of the manner in which the natives are settling down in the Protectorate and cultivating their farms and the rapidly increasing Customs receipts, there is reason to hope that the general condition of the Colony and Protectorate is steadily improving.

Sierra Leone,
18th April 1899.

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SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 273.)

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar...	1898
277	Bahamas...	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99.
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados...	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks Islands	"
298	Bahamas...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

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1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade Report for 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.

No. 299

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE, 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 273.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. CARDEW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Fort Thornton,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
13th August, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1899. This Report was drafted by the late Mr. T. F. Meagher, when Acting Colonial Secretary, and owing to his much to be regretted death its completion has been delayed, and it lacks his signature.

I have, &c.,

F. CARDEW,

Governor.

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Sierra Leone, 1899.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

While the year 1898 realised the highest Revenue till then on record, that of 1899 has over-topped the 1898 record by over 43 per cent., a remarkable rise, the more remarkable when it is noted that this rise is nearly 63 per cent. higher than the average of the preceding five years, from 1894-1898.

The expenditure was well within the Revenue, and, though higher than that of 1898, exceeded it by only 19 per cent., while it exceeded the average of the five years from 1894 to 1898 by 33 per cent.

The following table exhibits the growth of the Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1890...	73,708	63,056
1891...	89,869	77,965
1892...	86,866	83,852
1893...	92,769	84,961
1894...	98,838	93,100
1895...	97,852	100,248
1896...	97,109	116,183
1897...	106,009	111,678
1898...	117,682	121,112
1899...	168,382	145,089

The Receipts of the two years 1898 and 1899 are placed side by side in the following table under the different heads of service, the increase or decrease under each head being shown:—

Comparative Yearly Statement of the Revenue.

SIERRA LEONE, 1899.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT

Tax or Duty according to the Classification employed in the Estimates.	Amount collected in the Year 1898.			Amount collected in the Year 1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	84,592	14	6	121,847	18	9
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues ...	3,473	11	0	3,624	9	9
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,263	3	9	5,259	4	10
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and re-imbursements in aid.	2,106	2	5	3,598	10	2
Post Office and Savings Bank	4,916	11	4	2,662	16	2
Rents of Government Property	237	17	6	218	18	0
Interest	2,071	17	10	1,422	10	7
Miscellaneous Receipts	6,971	11	3	2,892	1	3
Railway	—			4,898	14	1
Land Sales	294	10	0	14	0	0
	£109,927	19	7	£146,439	3	7
PROTECTORATE.						
Fines, Forfeitures, Fees of Court, &c. ...	276	12	8	357	7	8
Spirit Licences	246	0	0	750	15	0
Store Licences	890	5	0	1,470	5	0
House Tax	6,341	1	0	19,364	3	4
Total	£117,681	18	3	£168,381	14	7

OF THE REVENUE.

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
37,255 4 3	—	Due to large increase in importation.
150 18 9	—	Increase in number of vessels calling at the harbour.
—	3 18 11	Usual variations.
1,492 7 9	—	Due to insertion in the estimates of Fees of Courts (paid in stamps) formerly included under Post Office Revenue; also to increase under Customs Fees and Hospital Fees.
—	2,253 15 2	Due to introduction of the Penny Postage and to the revenue derived from sale of Stamps for Court Fees being included under Fees of Court, &c.
—	18 19 6	Due to rents in arrears payable in 1900.
—	649 7 3	Due to the interest on Steamer Depreciation Fund being invested and added to the fund, and not brought to revenue as formerly.
—	4,079 10 0	Due to an exceptional item of £4,017, "Balance of Proceeds of Sinking Fund Investments on redemption of Public Works Loan," brought under this head in 1898.
4,898 14 1	—	Due to opening of 1st Section of Sierra Leone Government Railway on 1st May.
—	280 10 0	One lot only sold in 1899.
£43,797 4 10	£7,286 0 10	
80 15 0	—	Due to the more effectual collection of the revenue, consequent on the pacification of the Protectorate.
304 15 0	—	
580 0 0	—	
13,023 2 4	—	
£57,985 17 2	£7,286 0 10	

The receipts under Customs are in the main responsible for the larger Revenue of 1899, the receipts under this head in the latter year representing an increase of no less than 44 per cent. The causes of this increase will be dealt with under "Imports and Exports."

The receipts under the head "Gaol Department" have made a rapid stride, due to the introduction of the tailoring and shoemaking industry into that institution. There was, however, a not inconsiderable fall in the receipts from warehouse rents, mostly due to the disappearance of the transit trade, referred to under "Imports and Exports."

The falling off in receipts from "Interest" is due to the realization of the Colony's investments of its surplus assets, in order to provide in some part the funds required for the construction of the railway, pending the raising of the loan authorised for railway purposes; as also to the fact that the interest on the colonial steamer depreciation fund, formerly treated as revenue, was in 1899 invested and added to the fund.

The large decrease in "Miscellaneous" is not a true indication of a fall in the revenue, the receipts of 1898 having been augmented by a purely fortuitous windfall of £4,017, the surplus of the accumulated sinking fund for the redemption of the outstanding portion of the public works loan of 1873, which was paid off in 1898.

Coming to the Protectorate receipts, the considerable increase of 183 per cent. is found. This is, of course, due to the pacification of the Protectorate effected in 1899, the disturbances in which during 1898 resulted in the temporarily enforced suspension of the levying of the house tax, for the first time collected in that year. The tax did not realise the estimated amount, owing to the natives not having fully settled down; however, £19,365 was collected as against an estimate of £25,000. It is anticipated that the tax will in the future much exceed the estimate for last year, but this may not result immediately, as the machinery for collection is at present slow working, owing to the difficulty of communications in a country so densely wooded and broken as the Protectorate, so intersected with numerous streams and marshes, and without good roads; but as the Protectorate gets opened up and the officials and police become better acquainted with their districts, which objects are being rapidly effected, these difficulties will be surmounted; and with the consequent more complete registration of the towns and villages, a corresponding increase in the revenue from the house tax may confidently be expected in the future. Spirit licences, store licences, and fines, &c., all show considerable increases, and are compared below with the receipts of 1898:—

PROTECTORATE REVENUE.

Service.	1898.	1899.
	£	£
House Tax	6,341	19,364
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court ...	277	358
Spirit Licences	246	751
Store Licences	890	1,470
Total	7,754	21,943

The above figures illustrate the development that is being effected. The house tax is 5*s*. a house, the spirit and store licences £2 each yearly, or 25*s*. half-yearly.

The railway was opened to general traffic on the 1st of May, 1899, for a distance of 32 miles from Freetown, and the sum of £4,899 represents the receipts from that date to the close of the year, so far as they were brought to account in the Treasury books. That the Treasury figures will differ from those furnished by the Railway Department is obvious. The latter will be given and explained under the head of "Railway."

Turning to the Expenditure, which has already been seen to have been well within the Revenue, the growth of it is shown in the table given at the commencement of this Report. As compared with the previous year the growth of 1899 is shown in the following table:—

SIERRA LEONE,
1899.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT

Tax or Duty according to the Classification employed in the Estimates.	Amount collected in the Year 1898.			Amount collected in the Year 1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charge on account of Public Debt ...	6,138	16	10	6,563	6	3
Pensions	3,563	17	1	3,925	7	10
Governor and Legislature	3,400	9	8	4,219	14	2
Colonial Secretary's Department	2,520	4	4	2,441	13	9
Provincial Administration	1,561	17	10	1,529	15	1
Native Affairs	731	9	8	583	7	4
Treasury	1,668	0	1	1,662	6	6
Customs Department	9,690	15	0	10,472	15	11
Audit Department	1,138	13	3	1,147	7	5
Port and Marine Department	762	7	5	740	15	5
Legal Department	5,619	6	3	5,289	18	11
Police, Frontier	20,634	3	7	25,672	7	0
Do. Civil	9,033	16	10	8,828	13	8
Prisons	4,886	18	1	4,606	3	4
Medical Department	3,385	7	10	3,913	18	3
Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,582	6	6	3,769	15	5
Carried forward	79,318	10	3	85,367	6	3

OF THE EXPENDITURE.

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
424 9 5	—	Further advances by Crown Agents, pending issue of railway loan.
361 10 9	—	Due to additions to Pension List.
819 4 6	—	Due to increased Allowance to Acting Governor for six months.
—	78 10 7	Due to changes in the staff.
—	32 2 9	Due to the abolition of the office of Assistant District Commissioner, Sherbro.
—	148 2 4	Death of Secretary for Native Affairs in August 1899, and no successor appointed.
—	5 13 7	Due to changes in office, and purchase of typewriter.
782 0 11	—	Increased expenditure on account of Customs allowance to troops owing to increase of troops in the garrison.
8 14 2	—	Purchase of typewriter.
—	21 12 0	Due to savings under various sub-heads.
—	329 7 4	Salary and expenses of Deputy Judge charged to this head in 1898.
5,039 3 5	—	Pay lists of several companies outstanding as "Imprests" in 1898, not brought to account till 1899, owing to disturbances in Protectorate; also to the inclusion in the accounts of 1899 of the pay of the entire force for that year.
—	205 3 2	Due to employment of special constables in 1898—not required in 1899.
—	280 14 9	Decrease in expenditure on account of maintenance of prisoners.
598 10 5	—	Appointment of an additional Assistant Colonial Surgeon for the Colony, and establishment of a nursing home.
—	812 11 1	Decrease due to reduced expenditure on provisions and medicines.
8,033 13 7	1,913 17 7	

SIERRA LEONE, 1899.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT

Tax or Duty according to the Classification employed in the Estimates.	Amount collected in the Year 1898.			Amount collected in the Year 1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	79,318	10	3	85,367	6	3
Sanitary Department	9	4	7	—		
Education	2,254	17	0	2,306	10	5
Transport	1,744	15	4	1,287	16	1
Miscellaneous Services	7,025	10	1	6,956	7	3
Post Office	4,175	15	10	6,617	1	3
Public Works Department	1,854	18	0	1,788	2	8
Public Works Extraordinary	2,479	11	8	4,870	3	7
Do. Recurrent	4,818	0	6	5,054	3	10
Colonial Steamer	3,280	14	0	3,102	0	7
Botanical and Agricultural Department ...	713	1	9	772	2	10
Railway	—			10,493	4	8
Protectorate	10,454	12	7	14,124	0	11
Military Expedition...	884	16	7	2,265	3	3
Freetown Municipality	2,098	0	0	—		
Telegraphs	—			14	7	6
Total	£121,112	8	2	£145,088	11	1

OF THE EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
8,033 13 7	1,913 17 7	
—	9 4 7	
51 13 5	—	Grants in aid to Mohammedan Schools and increment to salary of Inspector of Schools.
—	456 19 3	Passages of Frontier Officers charged to Protectorate in 1899, and portion of expenses of Anglo-French Boundary Commission paid in 1898.
—	69 2 10	Various items of unforseen expenditure included under this head, which do not admit of comparison.
2,441 5 5	—	Adjustment of deposit account, General Post Office, London, owing to unestimated items of Post Office expenditure for previous years wrongly debited to it.
—	66 15 4	Death of Director of Public Works in November. No successor appointed during the year 1899.
2,390 11 11	—	Erection of new Customs offices, re-construction of Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, renovation of Nursing Home, and fencing Botanical Station.
236 3 4	—	Increase under maintenance and repairs of public buildings.
—	178 13 5	Due to retirement of Commander, and appointment not filled.
59 1 1	—	Opening of a new station at Songo Town.
10,493 4 8	—	Expenditure consequent on opening of first section on May 1st 1899.
3,668 8 4	—	Appointment of District Commissioner, Koinadugu, another District Surgeon, and building of barracks and officers' quarters.
1,380 6 8	—	Expenditure on account of Imperial troops during insurrection charged as an advance against Imperial Government, transferred to expenditure of Colony.
—	2,098 0 0	Grant in aid included under "Miscellaneous" in 1899.
14 7 6	—	Instruction to learners for railway telegraph service.
£28,768 15 11	£4,792 13 0	

It will immediately be seen that more than half the gross increase is under "Railway" and "Frontier Police." The railway expenditure, as here given, these being the Treasury figures, differs from that stated by the Railway Department, the difference being due to the fact that expenditure incurred by the railway on remedying defects in the permanent way, as taken over by the Department, and, for like purposes, is included in the Treasury statements, but not in those of the Railway Department, being carried to capital account by the latter. The latter's statement will be gone into under the head of "Railway."

The £5,039 under "Frontier Police" is mainly due to an increase in the number of assistant inspectors from five in 1898 to ten in 1899, and of fifty in the number of privates.

The other large increases calling for special note are those under "Protectorate," "Post Office," and "Public Works Extraordinary."

With regard to the first, the appointment of District Commissioners for the districts of Panguma and Koinadugu in the place of the Frontier Police officers, who had formerly acted as Commissioners, the addition of a fifth District Surgeon, the building of barracks and officers' quarters, and the resumption of the payment of stipends to native chiefs temporarily suspended during the disturbances, all contributed to the larger expenditure of 1899 as compared with 1898.

The Post Office increase is mainly due to one large item of £2,129, the adjustment of the errors of several previous years, expenditure of those years not brought to account as expenditure of the department, but mistakenly carried to a wrong account, accumulating year by year till it had reached those figures. The normal increase in the business of the post entailed also additional expenditure, such as £900 for sea postage and £345 for conveyance of mails within the Colony, as against £656 and £134 respectively in 1898.

The new Customs Offices, begun in 1899, the more rapid prosecution of work on the new lunatic asylum buildings, and the entire renovation of the somewhat dilapidated building leased for the new nursing home, were responsible for the increase under "Public Works Extraordinary."

Taxation.

An Ordinance with regard to Customs duties was brought into operation at the beginning of the year, but it was mainly a consolidation of the numerous existing Ordinances on the subject, the only increases made in the duties being on those on certain classes of guns, and a specific duty was imposed on revolvers, revolver cartridges, and sword blades. Otherwise, there was no change in taxation, leaving out of account the imposition of house rates in Freetown by the Municipality. The two districts of Panguma and Koinadugu continued exempt from the payment of house tax.

Assets and Liabilities.

At the beginning of 1899 the Colony claimed an excess of Assets of £15,908; at the close of the year the Assets had been converted into an excess of Liabilities of £14,867, this being due the debt of £44,766, owing on account of the extra expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for the military expedition into the Protectorate in 1898 and 1899 for the suppression of the native rising, a debt which it has been arranged to pay off by instalments. In the earlier statement of Assets and Liabilities, too, the depreciation fund on account of the Colonial steamer appeared only as an asset; in the latter it appears as both an asset and a liability. This fund had then reached £9,751. These two amounts, together totalling £54,517, more than sufficiently explain the conversion of an asset of £15,908 into a liability of £14,867.

Public Debt.

The last of the public works debenture loan of 1873 having been paid off in 1898, there was no loan debt in 1899, beyond the floating advances, obtained at current bank rates, for the railway works in progress. At the end of 1899 these amounted to £244,500, and will be included this year on an Imperial Treasury loan for £310,000, which has been authorised.

Currency.

In the Colony the general currency is British sterling—silver and gold. French gold napoleons and silver five-franc pieces are also current, being legal tender at 15*s.* 10*d.* and 3*s.* 10½*d.* each, and, though not legal tender, French silver francs are fairly common. French silver money is also to be found in the Protectorate, more particularly in the districts bordering on French Guinea. United States gold eagles, half-eagles, and quarter-eagles, as also Spanish gold doubloons, are legal tenders, but are very scarce. At present there appears to be more gold and less silver in the Colony than is required, but it is difficult to arrive at a correct estimate of the amount of either in circulation. There is no paper currency. In Freetown a branch of the Bank of

British West Africa is established, with which the Colonial Government's banking business is transacted, but this bank is not authorised to issue notes. The rate of exchange with London varies from par to about 1¼ per cent.

In the Protectorate till within recent years nearly the whole of the trade was carried on by barter, and a considerable portion of it is so dealt with, but a knowledge of the value of money is becoming more common and its use more general. Ninety-seven per cent. of the house tax is now paid in coin instead of produce.

Municipalities.

The Municipality of Freetown, the only one in the Colony, may be regarded as still in its infancy. Though the Corporation was created on the 21st of February, 1893, it was not till August, 1895, that the City Council came into existence and the first mayor was elected. The city councillors number 15, of whom 12 are elected and three nominated by the Government.

The revenue of the Municipality is derived mainly from market dues, cemetery fees, trade licences and licences taken out by professional men, druggists, &c., shop, store, and hawkers' licences, and licences on vehicles (sedan chairs, "hammocks," &c.), house rates, and an annual grant of £1,800 a year from the Government. The imposition of rates in 1899 was the chief event of the Municipal year. The rate is 5 per centum on the rental value.

The revenue and expenditure of the Municipality for the four years of its existence are as under:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus or deficit.
	£	£	£
1895–6	4,333	2,240	+2,093
1896–7	3,575	4,162	− 587
1897–8	3,561	5,405	−2,044
1898–9	5,122	5,088	+ 34
Total	16,591	16,895	− 504

Included in the receipts of 1898-9 is a sum of £300 raised locally by way of debenture loan, repayable within 30 years.

SIERRA
LEONE,
1899.

This sum should not have been passed to revenue in the Municipal accounts; instead of a surplus therefore of £34 there is an actual deficit of £266.

With the co-operation of the City Council an important law for regulating buildings and streets in the city was passed in the course of last year.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The year has produced a large increase in the imports. The imports of 1898 had risen 33 per cent. higher than those of 1897, while in 1899 they have increased 14 per cent. over those of 1898. The exports show a recovery from the heavy fall of 1898, but have not yet reached the level of previous years. A gradual decrease from the year 1895 is apparent.

The following table gives the values of both imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1895...	427,338	452,604
1896...	494,688	449,033
1897...	457,389	400,748
1898...	606,348	290,991
1898...	689,806	336,011

Imports.

The large quantities of stores imported for both the Imperial and Colonial Governments in recent years have contributed to

SIERRA LEONE, 1899.

swell the imports. These are shown separately in the following table, in which the totals of other imports are also included:—

Year.	Imperial Government.	Colonial. Government.	Specie.	Other.
	£	£	£	£
1895	23,254	7,081	8,966	388,087
1896	14,418	26,575	22,389	431,306
1897	11,176	39,753	6,045	400.415
1898	112,135	42,687	45,154	406,373
1899	68,167	37,442	32,818	551,378

Till last year, therefore, no great fluctuations are apparent in the imports, apart from Colonial and Imperial Government stores and from specie. The increase in 1899 is out of all proportions. A large factor in producing this abnormal increase was the native rising, during which the destruction of property, of factories, and the merchandise stored in them, was considerable. These stocks have had to be renewed, and to this is due in a measure the rise in imports. Another contributory cause was the raising of the West African Regiment, who now constitute a not inappreciable addition to the Colony's spending power; quite a new section, earning steady wages, which are not hoarded and very quickly pass into circulation.

As compared with 1898 the principal increases and decreases were on the articles detailed in the following tables:—

—	1898.	1899.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Ale and Porter	4,488	5,249	761
Building Materials	7,874	15,920	8,046
Carts and Carriages	663	4,989	4,326
Cotton Goods	134,674	184,743	50,069
Flour	12,695	18,883	6,188
Haberdashery	17,370	22,076	4,706
Lumber	5,004	11,125	6,121
Carried forward	182,768	262,985	80,217

——	1898.	1899.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Brought forward	182,768	262,985	80,217
Oil, Kerosine	4,618	5,268	650
Salt	9,406	14,603	5,197
Sugar	7,088	8,938	1,850
Tobacco	18,724	31,897	13,173
Wines and Spirits...	28,862	41,652	12,790
Woollen Goods	10,563	12,829	2,266
Other Goods	89,989	120,922	30,933
Total	352,018	499,094	147,076

——	1898.	1899.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Apparel	23,759	18,441	5,318
Bread	6,476	5,575	901
Butter	4,351	3,930	421
Cartridges	14,901	5,562	9,339
Cement	4,665	3,245	1,422
Coals	33,278	20,400	12,878
Guns and Gunpowder	4,099	1,404	2,695
Hardware	41,183	33,234	7,949
Machinery	4,953	2,269	2,684
Provisions	21,899	17,494	4,405
Rice...	9,089	8,521	568
Coin and Bullion	45,154	32,818	12,336
Wood, Manufactured	2,522	54	2,468
Other Goods	38,002	37,767	235
Total	254,331	190,712	63,619

SIERRA LEONE, 1899.

The figures in the foregoing two tables are amalgamated and placed side by side with those of the three immediately preceding years in the following table :—

Year.	Apparel.	Coals.	Coin and Bullion.	Cotton Goods.	Flour.	Haberdashery.	Hardware.	Lumber.	Oil, Kerosine.	Provisions.	Rice.	Salt.	Spirit.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Wines.	Woollen Goods.	Empty Bags.	Country Cloth.	Beads.
1895	9,898	12,328	8,966	156,628	7,369	17,784	16,424	4,919	3,802	10,781	1,263	10,065	26,787	5,678	25,423	4,442	5,442	3,216	2,045	5,828
1896	9,189	16,651	22,389	175,095	10,131	21,808	38,957	8,324	5,065	13,041	1,561	11,567	16,407	5,500	19,147	4,235	7,371	5,234	2,500	8,212
1897	10,410	12,083	6,045	160,012	9,801	16,779	42,624	2,229	3,136	11,507	893	9,000	17,034	5,993	24,654	5,730	10,253	3,926	2,925	7,159
1898	23,759	33,278	45,154	134,674	12,695	17,370	41,183	5,004	4,618	21,899	9,089	9,406	23,639	7,088	16,261	5,223	10,563	5,253	4,797	4,379
1899	18,441	20,400	32,818	184,743	18,883	22,076	33,234	11,125	5,268	17,494	8,521	14,603	34,945	8,938	28,596	6,708	12,829	5,407	7,523	6,060

The fluctuations shown in the preceding table admit of the following explanations:—That in apparel was due mainly to the uniforms, &c., required on the formation of the West African Regiment, and to other importations by the Imperial Government; the importations of the last three years, exclusive of Colonial and Imperial Government stores, was £9,207, £8,704, and £10,819, while the value of apparel imported by the Imperial Government above in 1898 stands at £12,573. The large specie importations in 1898 were due mainly to the requirements of the military expedition following on the native rising and continuing into 1899; as was also the rise in provisions in 1898 and in rice in 1898 and 1899, in the latter case the rise being also partly due to the non-planting of the greater portion of the rice-producing area in consequence of the unsettled state of the country. Cotton goods recovered from the fall of 1898, due to the stoppage of trade on account of the rising, and rose higher to meet the renewed demand and to fill depleted stocks. Beads also felt the effect of the rising, as did also tobacco, though the fall in the latter article in 1896 appears to be unaccountable. The increases in hardware result from the railway works principally; that in lumber, but in a lesser degree, to these works, partly to the rebuilding of destroyed factories and buildings, and partly to an impulse to house building in Freetown. The demand for spirits is greatly increasing. The large figures of 1895 are due to the heavy withdrawals from bond at the end of that year in anticipation of the alteration of the duty on the 1st January, 1896, from 3*s*. per proof gallon to 3*s*. per liquid gallon; and the large increase in 1899 is in a measure for the replacing of stocks destroyed in the rising.

The expansion of the import trade, which is apparent from the preceding tables, is emphasised by the figures of the follwing table of the import duties collected in the last five years:—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1895...	17,106	65,474	82,580
1896...	22,094	52,669	74,763
1897...	24,386	58,489	82,875
1898...	24,245	60,359	84,604
1899...	32,543	89,305	121,848

The Customs revenue of 1899 is the largest that has ever been collected in the Colony, showing an increase over that of 1898

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of £37,244, or about 44 per cent. The principal articles which gave a larger yield were:—

Article.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Approximate percentage of Increase.
	£	£	£	
Cotton goods	12,619	17,202	4,583	36
Kerosine oil	4,753	6,001	1,248	26
Salt	1,737	2,585	848	49
Spirits	30,381	45,464	15,083	49
Tobacco...	15,881	26,428	10,547	66

The only article on which a decrease in duty reached three figures was hardware, the diminution having been £439, from £2,684 to £2,245.

International competition in trade lies principally with Germany and the United States of America, and to a lesser degree with France. As against £554,587 worth of imports from the United Kingdom, Germany sent £57,121 to Sierra Leone, the United States of America £40,795, and France £10,075. The expansion of the trade with Germany has been so steady that the following comparative table will be of interest. The figures given exclude importations made by the Colonial and Imperial Governments:—

Imports.	From Germany.			From Great Britain.		
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1897.	1898.	1899
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Boats	—	400	2,000	660	2,708	1,003
Butter	52	595	1,514	2,218	3,742	2,382
Apparel, Haberdashery, hats, and caps.	1,612	1,035	2,053	26,249	28,654	36,125
Cotton goods ...	4,823	5,662	9,369	132,674	126,242	172,210
Cutlery	998	1,664	3,271	649	836	1,110
Gin	2,308	4,417	9,944	847	1,513	2,018
Hardware	243	669	1,149	17,525	23,583	21,711

Imports.	From Germany.			From Great Britain,		
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Matches	823	891	1,084	144	75	750
Perfumery	815	1,013	2,657	984	757	996
Rum	1,264	3,448	6,950	1,123	3,838	4,430
Sugar, refined ...	343	926	1,536	1,986	2,397	2,595
Whiskey or Spirits ...	604	1,349	1,642	3,179	6,280	6,052
Woollen goods ...	1,499	1,159	2,095	7,937	8,812	9,842

Of the £40,795 imports from the United States of America over 86 per cent. was represented by unmanufactured tobacco (£13,196), lumber (£9,290), flour (£6,916), and kerosine oil (£4,914), the principal other articles coming from the States being biscuit, provisions, and beef and pork. The States hold the market for lumber and kerosine oil, but to imports of unmanufactured tobacco and flour the United Kingdom contributed £14,231 and £11,962 respectively, more than holding its own. The United Kingdom also contributed in cigars and manufactured tobacco £2,154, as against £34 from the States, but Germany contributed £840.

Wines constitute the chief imports from France, though only £1,712 and 17 per cent. of the whole, and in this there is competition from Germany to the amount of £1,171. Other imports from France are cotton goods (£1,233), rice (£771), umbrellas (£760), and silks (£601).

A noticeable item in the import list of 1899 is an importation of country clothes from Lagos to the value of £7,410, though there is no reason why these clothes should not be manufactured in Sierra Leone in sufficient quantities to meet an evident demand.

Exports.

The increase in the exports of 1899, as given in the table at the commencement of this section, was £45,020, equivalent to a rise of about 15 per cent., but these figures are much below the average of previous years. It must be remembered that the country was not completely pacified after the rising till towards the middle of last year. There are indications, however, that trade will revive, the exportations for January and February of 1900 having reached £88,368.

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A comparison of the principal articles of export are given in the following table:—

Year.	Benniseed.		Ginger.		Gum Copal.		Hides.		Kola Nuts.		Palm Kernels.		Palm Oil.		Rice, African.		Rubber.		Cotton.
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	No.	£	Cwts.	£	Tons.	£	Galls.	£	Bush.	£	Cwt.	£	£
1895	8,419	3,901	20,100	16,134	3,131	8,910	39,460	4,689	9,927	40,866	21,042	155,605	356,146	23,391	27,331	5,957	12,765	86,940	42,685
1896	18,559	12,577	19,636	14,145	3,900	12,258	306,235	13,642	9,712	38,352	21,084	151,846	326,089	17,546	16,884	4,205	13,316	79,196	39,646
1897	12,941	7,555	18,524	13,506	3,767	13,142	33,753	5,030	12,716	46,552	17,671	129,910	181,647	9,149	24,499	6,736	11,658	79,787	28,148
1898	9,299	5,260	20,099	11,935	5,061	9,058	4,917	602	10,795	49,671	14,646	112,063	54,939	3,466	12,330	4,382	5,801	52,504	4,233
1899	2,319	1,118	12,168	6,223	2,338	10,719	3,394	706	9,616	61,645	20,058	163,271	78,420	4,555	7,374	2,563	4,882	43,729	2,666

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The table shows that under no head have the figures of 1899 reached those of 1897, in either quantities or values, except in the case of palm kernels, and in the value of kola nuts. Moreover, in most of the other cases they did not reach those of the previous year. The higher price of kola nuts in 1899 was caused by the great demand for this product in the adjacent countries or colonies to the north, more particularly the Gambia, the exports to these places being 9,318 cwt., out of the total of 9,616, the Gambia alone taking 4,710.

The decrease in rice is marked, and is due to the non-planting of the usual area of rice fields. The increased importation of foreign rice was a consequence.

In the case of rubber, its decreased market value may be one of the causes of the decrease in the quantities of this product exported, but the main factor in the diminution in the exports of this article, as of other products of the interior, such as hides, &c., lies in the dues and impediments placed in the way of its transit into the Sierra Leone Protectorate from French territory at the back of and bordering on the Protectorate, and the efforts made to divert to French ports the caravans bringing it from the interior. No statistics of this transit trade are favourable in this Colony, but the following table, compiled from figures obtained from French sources, may serve as an indication of the value of the trade which is being lost, and will also show other sources of loss in the export trade. The values given are at rates decreed by the French authorities:—

EXPORTS from FRENCH GUINEA to SIERRA LEONE.

Article.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£
Gum Copal...	10,742	8,198	1,000
Hides	6,374	5,317	891
Palm Kernels	7,133	1,763	219
Rubber	110,187	108,823	19,790
Other produce	17,280	6,605	2,471
Carried forward	151,716	130,706	24,371

EXPORTS from FRENCH GUINEA to SIERRA LEONE—*continued.*

Article.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£
Brought forward	151,716	130,706	24,371
Cattle, sheep and goats	15,701	18,905	20,258
Specie	68	317	—
Total	167,485	149,928	44,629

This table also serves to illustrate what is exemplified by the steady decrease in the exports of cotton goods shown in the one preceding it. The depôt or transit trade with the area known as the "Northern Rivers" (Rio Nunez, Rio Pongo, &c.), which at one time looked to Freetown as its port of supply, is fast dwindling, and forcible evidence of this is given in the following table showing the exports to French Guinea:—

Article.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£	£
Amber and Beads	1,143	1,203	105	25
Cotton Goods	37,294	26,201	2,301	800
Liquors	1,632	1,119	15	—
Salt	1,193	273	1	1
Tobacco	2,777	1,589	244	87
Other goods, except rice, and Specie.	15,776	8,300	4,423	3,335
	59,805	38,685	7,089	4,248
Rice	4,313	5,775	4,140	2,514
Specie	160	838	15,100	9,691
Total	64,288	45,296	26,329	16,453

The direction of the export trade in the last five years is shown hereunder:—

Year.	Great Britain.	Gambia.	Other British Colonies.	Germany.	France.	United States of America.	Foreign Places on West Coast of Africa.	Foreign Places on East Coast of Africa.	Total to all Countries.
1895	206,872	18,556	3,236	106,555	26,310	1,117	87,615	2,315	452,604
1896	203,495	18,881	3,013	103,209	26,891	1,109	93,497	2,286	449,033
1897	188,945	25,461	3,773	95,156	17,302	15	66,563	3,533	400,748
1898	117,726	26,663	4,284	80,743	8,134	—	49,164	4,275	290,991
1899	135,635	35,546	6,866	100,221	5,273	27	46,159	6,281	336,011

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Germany is a steady rival purchaser of the Colony's products, her chief demand being for palm kernels. The exports of this product to Germany in the years 1893, 1896, and 1899 are shown in the following table, as also those of gum copal and rubber, and are placed side by side with those sent to the United Kingdom:—

Export.	To Germany.			To Great Britain.		
	1893.	1896.	1899.	1893.	1896.	1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	
Gum Copal	—	203	2,107	18,131	12,053	8,612
Palm Kernels ...	51,335	98,698	95,128	66,584	44,632	68,135
Rubber	—	267	1,538	48,734	78,929	42,195

The export trade with the United States of America has vanished. That with France also shows signs of disappearing. Of the exports to France in 1899, out of £5,273, specie amounted to £4,103 and benniseed to £599. The greater portion of the benniseed exports went to France, the total export being £1,118, of which £599 went to France, as stated, £306 to Germany, and £213 to the United Kingdom.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

In the course of last year there was established in Freetown a factory for the manufacture of ice and ærated waters. The plant is of modern type, worked by steam power, and capable of making six tons of ice in the twenty-four hours, as well as large quantities of ærated waters, and gives employment to some two dozen hands. The native manufactures a very strong cotton cloth, called "country cloth," from the cotton which grows luxuriantly in the Protectorate, and himself dyes the cloth with dye from the indigo plant, which also thrives there. Other small manufactures carried on by the natives comprise pottery, of a rude kind, mats, ironwork, baskets, and twine, from the fibre of a palm leaf, for net making.

The pearl oyster has been found on this coast and, in view of a possible opening for a pearl fishery, an Ordinance has recently been passed to empower the Government to grant a monopoly of the fishery under restriction.

Of mines there are none, but several concessions of extensive territories have been made by native chiefs to European and other capitalists, who propose a systematic search for whatever minerals the country produces.

Agricultural Industries.

Agriculture is of the most primitive kind, but, of its sort, is carried on extensively. Rice, cassada, and ginger are planted, as also are agu seed, benniseed, and ground nuts, in which last-mentioned product a considerable trade was once carried on when prices ruled higher. The oil palm, rubber, gum, and kola nut are indigenous. Sierra Leone coffee has acquired a name of its own.

The Curator of the Botanic Gardens continues, as far as he can, to disseminate information with regard to correct methods of culture, and to supply seeds and plants that are asked for, but hitherto the demand is principally for plants of an ornamental character. With a view to getting into closer touch with the native, and compelling him in a way to see the results of improved cultivation, an experimental farm, in connection with the Botanic Station, has been established at Songo, on the highway into the interior. An area of about 85 acres has been taken up and cleared of bush, and the work of planting out has been started. A large number of rubber trees, principally *Kickxia Africana*, have been planted, and some 60 of different varieties of the better qualities of orange. In connection with this, it is contemplated to establish a cattle and dairy farm. Cattle are scarce in this Colony and the breed is poor.

Shipping.

The shipping returns show a considerable increase in sailing vessels as compared with the previous year, but no difference of note as regards steam vessels, beyond an increase in tonnage, due to the fact that steamers of larger tonnage are being employed in the trade on this coast, as elsewhere in the world. In the following tabular statement the figures of the two years are placed side by side for comparison:—

Description.	1898.		1899.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Sailing vessels:				
Entered	141	5,082	172	7,086
Cleared	125	4,924	153	8,057
Total	266	10,006	325	15,143

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Description.	1898.		1899.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Steam vessels :				
Entered	372	551,830	369	585,853
Cleared	368	548,392	367	580,752
Total	740	1,100,222	736	1,166,605
Grand Total ...	1,006	1,110,228	1,031	1,181,748

The same figures are here given so as to distinguish between the nationality of the shipping, both entered and cleared being combined :—

Nationalty.	1898.		1899.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Sailing vessels :				
British (Colonial)	39	1,515	117	2,724
French	224	2,835	123	2,026
Portuguese ...	23	358	18	254
American ...	16	10,378	8	5,002
German	3	57	—	—
Total	325	15,143	266	10,006
Steamers :				
British	578	861,628	574	918,256
French	52	55,168	31	34,145
German	35	32,155	33	29,467
Belgian	40	110,918	64	147,794
Spanish	15	15,135	26	28,927
Others	20	25,218	8	8,016
Total	740	1,100,222	736	1,166,605

Including one of Great Britain.

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In 1899, one Russian, one Portuguese, one Dutch, and one Italian; in 1898, one Russian, one Danish, six Italian, and one Norwegian.

Below is a comparative table for the last five years of the tonnage of the shipping, both entered and cleared:—

Year.	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1895	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745
1898	10,006	1,100,222	1,110,228
1899	15,143	1,160,605	1,181,748

III.—LEGISLATION.

The more important measures of the year may be dealt with shortly.

Ordinance No. 1, relating to Customs duties, is principally a consolidation of numerous existing enactments, its alteration of the duties being trifling.

Ordinances Nos. 3 and 8 provide for the detention of six of the ringleaders in the native rising of 1898.

Ordinance No. 16 provides for the enrolment of a volunteer force, but it has not been acted on.

Ordinance No. 19 deals exclusively with the City of Freetown, and was enacted in order to control the building and roofing of houses in the City, and make provision with regard to street regulation and the fencing in of properties.

There were 22 other Ordinances of less importance.

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IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Schools.

The statistics dealt with here do not relate to the past year, but have reference to the year 1898, following the practice which has hitherto been adopted, in order that there may be no hiatus. Sixty-six schools were inspected, as against 1,869 in 1898, and 1,872 in 1897. If, however, small schools grouped with larger ones are counted as separate units, the number inspected in 1899 totals 1,876. There are no Government schools, and the 1,876 are all denominational schools, divided among the denominations as follows:—

Church of England	41
Wesleyan	20
United Methodist Free Church ...	8
Countess of Huntingdon's Connection ...	4
Roman Catholic	2
United Brethren in Christ	1

The total number of children on the roll and the average attendance for the five years from 1894 to 1898 are here tabulated:—

Year.	On Roll.			Average Attendance.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1894	4,357	3,980	8,337	3,244	2,789	6,033
1895	4,363	3,917	8,280	3,193	2,733	5,926
1896	4,423	3,993	8,416	3,163	2,720	5,883
1897	4,731	4,124	8,855	3,318	2,778	6,096
1898	4,563	3,795	8,358	3,173	2,534	5,707

During this period of time no impression has apparently been made on the parents of the children in this Colony sufficient to induce them to strive to obtain for the children the teaching which they greatly lack. Though the roll number is not lower than it was in 1894 or 1895, and both roll numbers and average attendances for the five years appear very erratic, the average attendance in 1898 is the lowest on record for the five years, and

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indeed for the seven years past, this result being partly due to the native insurrection, which could not but affect the schools lying close to the scenes of the disturbances. But that the numbers do not increase steadily year by year is due to the indifference of the parents and to their desire to utilise the services of their children for their immediate profit rather than their ultimate gain. So far back as 1868 the average attendance in the elementary schools was 5,520.

The aid grants made by the Government to these schools in 1898 amounted to £1,464. In 1897 they were £1,490, and in 1896, £1,344. School fees collected were £882 for 1898, £898 for 1897, and £907 for 1896, and society grants £1,149, £1,034, and £1,249 respectively. Including other services, the total incomes of the schools in the three years were £4,786, £5,259, and £4,573; and their expenditure £4,355, £5,100, and £4,459 respectively; thus showing that the Government contributes close upon 30 per cent. of the cost of the schools, and that each unit of average attendance cost 15*s.* 3*d.*, 16*s.* 8*d.*, and 15*s.* 1*d.*

The results obtained for this expenditure show that, of the number presented for examination the passes in all standards averaged about 59 per cent., in one standard falling as low as 27 per cent., while the number examined was 79 per cent. of the whole number taught in the standards. The lower standards are more creditable; the higher very feeble, showing lack of teaching power in the teachers, one of the weak points of elementary education in this Colony. This weakness is evident when it is seen that but three among the teachers hold 1st class certificates, while very many hold none, and when it is found that at the teachers' certificate examination, held during the year, out of 21 candidates 16 were failures, and the five successful competitors gained only 3rd class certificates; and, moreover, that of the eight students in training, four of whom were examined at the close of the first year's course and four at the close of the second, none could be classed. Again, at the examination of pupils from the primary schools for scholarships at a secondary school, no scholarship could be awarded to any of the 19 competitors.

A new education code was brought into force at the end of last year, in which provision is made for the training of teachers, and arrangements have been made for the training to be conducted at the Fura Bay College referred to below. It is hoped that by this means the dearth of qualified teachers will be lessened and the standard of elementary education by their means gradually raised.

An indication of the backward state of education in the lower grades was given at the last competitive examination, a simple one, for candidates for posts in the Civil Service. Of 36 candidates three gained passes.

Protectorate Mission Schools.

The mission schools numbered altogether 31 in 1899, there being in the Karene district 16 (of different denominations), in the Ronietta district 11 (all belonging to the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society in America of the United Bretheren in Christ), in the Koinadagu district two (Church of England), in the Panguma district one (United Methodist Free Church), and in the Bandajuma district one (Roman Catholic). The total on the roll and the average attendance is given in the following table:—

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	On Roll.	Average attendance.
Church of England	10	291	163
American Soudan Mission (non-sectarian).	2	33	33
Wesleyan	2	80	15
American Wesleyan	1	24	24
African Methodist Episcopal ...	3	102	73
United Brethren in Christ ...	11	283	*
United Methodist Free Church ...	1	50	28
Roman Catholic	1	22	*
Total	31	885	336

* Not recorded.

These schools have received a small capitation grant of 2*s*. 6*d*. on the average attendance for last year.

Secondary Education.

There are no fewer than six schools of this class, three for boys and three for girls, in the Colony. One for boys and one for girls, established by the Church Missionary Society of England, the former having been founded 55 years ago; two Wesleyan schools, one for boys and one for girls, the former belonging to and maintained by the Wesleyan Missionary Society of England, and the latter belonging to a syndicate in the Colony; a Roman Catholic school for girls, conducted by a religious sisterhood; and an undenominational institution which is self supporting.

Higher Grade Education.

Fura Bay College, founded by the Church Missionary Society of England in 1827 and affiliated to the University of Durham in 1876, adequately provides a higher education, its staff consisting of the principal and three tutors. The college provides several scholarships, some of which are for the promotion of missionary work on the West Coast of Africa, and its curriculum embraces a theological course for a licence in Theology, and an arts course for the B.A. degree. It also issues junior and senior certificates in general education, the examination for which, held once a year, is open to any person on the West Coast of Africa, and may be held at any centre.

Technical.

A school of this class was opened in 1896, to the great benefit of the community, and its work continues to be successful. Under Government auspices, the course of free lectures to artisans on building construction, &c., commenced in 1898, was renewed in 1899.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In 1898 the Government medical institutions in the Colony were the General Hospital in Freetown and a similar institution in Bonthe (Sherbro), a small-pox hospital at Kissy, a short distance from Freetown, and a similar institution at Sherbro, at Bonthe Bai, a lunatic asylum at Kissy, and a hospital for incurables at Kissy, with a division for males and one for females. To these was added in 1899 a nursing home in Freetown. And besides the Government institutions there exists a small hospital (the Princess Christian Cottage Hospital), with a private ward for paying patients, which is a Church of England Diocesan institution, and to which the Government now gives a small annual grant. This admirable institution is under the supervision of European nurses. In the out-districts of the Colony there are several dispensaries, and in the five Protectorate districts a small hospital in each.

Hospitals.

The most important of these is the General Hospital in Freetown. In this the total under treatment in 1899 was 1,088 (828

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males and 260 females), of whom 504 were discharged cured (396 males and 108 females), 347 relieved (269 males and 78 females), and 67 not relieved (46 males and 21 females), and 109 died (77 males and 32 females); showing a daily average of 58·20 under treatment. The daily average under treatment in 1898 was 53·76.

The number of cases treated in the Sherbro General Hospital last year was 123, of whom 113 were males and 10 females; and of these 78 went out cured, 31 relieved, and four not relieved, and six died. The number of patients in 1898 was 315, of which 12 died, 259 were discharged cured. The death rate in 1898 was 3·80 per cent. and 4·87 in 1899.

Lunatic Asylum.

The daily average number of inmates was the same in 1899 as in 1898, namely, 109; but the admissions in 1899 numbered 19 (14 males and five females), as against 25 in 1898 (20 males and five females). This is due to the number of deaths having risen from nine in 1898 to 18 in 1899, and the discharges from seven to 13.

Some of the inmates of this institution belong to other West African Colonies. There is little work for the inmates, but a few of the women occupy themselves with laundry work, and a few of the men with gardening and basket work. A new building in connection with the asylum is in course of construction in its vicinity, and the opportunity has been taken to employ some of the more tractable lunatics on labourer's work on the new building at a fixed price, healthy employment being thus found for them, and the wages earned enabling them to purchase small luxuries in the way of tobacco, cocoanuts, &c.

Poor Houses.

There are no Government institutions of the kind in the Colony. The Government confines its action to the annual grant of a sum of £400, which is administered for the relief of the poor by three Charity Commissioners, of whom one is a Government official.

Nursing Home.

With the co-operation of the Colonial Nursing Association, who gave their assistance and contributed, and with the support of the mercantile community, the Government felt in a position to push forward with the establishment of this institution, as to the need for which all were agreed upon. A suitable building, in the heart of Freetown was leased, repaired, and fitted up, two European nurses arrived in the 7th of July, and the home was formally opened on the 12th.

The home has been established primarily for people who are temporarily resident on the West Coast of Africa, and who are in consequence deprived of the advantages and comforts of home nursing when sick, the management being entrusted to a local committee, consisting of three Government officials, three representatives of the mercantile community, and the senior officer on the Army Medical Staff at Tower Hill Barracks.

The first patient entered one week after the opening, and by the end of the year 21 cases had been admitted, many of a very serious nature. Of these 21 cases, three died, 14 passed out cured, and four were discharged relieved. The deaths were cases of blackwater fever, there being two other cases of the same disease which were cured; and of the 21 cases 15 were malarial fever in one form or other. The Superintendent of the home, who is also the Colonial Surgeon, states that but for the existence of the home the European death rate of Freetown would in all human probability have been higher in 1899 than it actually was.

Savings Bank.

There are two savings banks attached to the Post Office Department; one is in Freetown and the other in Bonthe, Sherbro.

The following tabular statement exhibits the growth of the last five years:—

Year.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Balance, including interest.
	£	£	£
1895	15,476	15,487	37,755
1896	19,078	17,307	39,426
1897	17,625	17,525	40,461
1898	23,273	21,418	43,304
1899	25,097	21,648	47,830

The investments on account of savings bank moneys, all in Colonial Government stocks, amount to £48,626 13*s.* 6*d.*, for which £48,618 5*s.* 9*d.* was paid, and the interest obtained in 1899 on these investments figured at £1,422 10*s.* 7*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Civil Police.

The Civil Police are exclusively stationed in the Colony with its outlying districts along the coast, and consist of a European Superintendent and Inspector and 285 men of other ranks, who are natives.

Frontier Police.

The Frontier Police consist of 17 European officers and 611 native sub-officers and privates. It is organised into five companies, and one company is posted in each of the five districts of the Protectorate. In 1899 the cost of the force amounted to £25,672 7*s.* 0*d.*

Prisons.

Of the three prisons in the Colony, the one at Waterloo is but a primitive establishment, with one ward and no cell, used only for short-sentence male prisoners; and that at Sherbro has but one cell and four wards.

The Freetown gaol has 28 wards and eight cells. The building is, however, old and far from being a model prison, and, as soon as the financial condition of the Colony will admit of it, a new central prison will be begun, the plans being ready and the site selected.

As compared with the year 1898 the total number committed to this prison last year shows an increase, though not large; but, if the numbers committed only for safe custody till trial or for want of security are not taken into account, the number of criminals incarcerated in 1899 is considerably greater than that of 1898, as seen from the following figures:—

—	1898.	1899.
For safe custody till or for want of security.	225	141
For penal imprisonment	434	537
Total	659	678

The increase was among petty criminals, those sentenced for short terms, three months or less, the number of these in 1899 having been 466 as against 311 in 1898.

Of the total number committed last year, 634 were men, 29 women, and 15 juveniles, being, with an exception of an increase in Juveniles, about the usual proportion. The daily average in prison was 185 as against 197 in 1898.

The health of the prison was marred by an epidemic of smallpox in the middle of the year, traced to a prisoner recently come from Sherbro, where there had been cases of the disease. The number of admissions to hospital was consequently high, 204 as against 63 in 1898, the number of deaths being 15 as against eight, and the daily average on the sick list 20 as against 15.

The industrial and remunerative work of the prison grows in a small way. Besides making the boots, uniforms, and clothing required for the warders and convicts in the prison itself, the prison makes and repairs boots for outsiders, and makes the uniforms for both Civil and Frontier Police, Government boatmen, postmen, and railway porters, guards, &c. The prisoners' earnings for the year were estimated at £2,223 8*s*. 6*d*. The amount actually collected by the Treasury was £32 3*s* 3*d*. as against £2 15*s*. 9*d*. in 1898, being mostly for broken stone.

Criminal Statistics.

The summary convictions for larceny last year rose to 362, the numbers for the previous five years, 1894-1898, having been 249, 229, 238, 203, and 294.

In the Supreme Court the number of persons committed for trial was 112, of whom 16 were discharged on the cases against them falling through for want of prosecution, 36 were acquitted, and 60 were convicted of various offences, among the 27 convictions for offences against the person there being 10 for murder. The abnormally large number of convictions in this Court in 1898 for offences against the person was owing to the number of cases for murder arising out of the insurrection in the Protectorate.

Apart from the cases of larceny and the miscellaneous offences referred to, there has been no unusual increase in crime in the past year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The last census, that taken in 1891, returned a population in the Colony of 74,835, of whom 224 were Europeans. As registration is very faulty and the returns furnished by the registrars of births and deaths cannot be relied on as representing actual facts correctly, the present population cannot be deduced. It is, however, conjectured that, in consequence of immigration from the Protectorate, it may be stated at about 100,000. That of the Protectorate is placed at 1,000,000, roughly estimated as far as can be ascertained.

The statistics relating to Freetown can better be dealt with and are of interest, the figures relating to births, however, being taken with considerable reserve. A dead body has to be buried and the death is therefore probably registered, but it seems very doubtful whether a large number of births do not entirely escape registration. The 1891 census states the population at 30,033, and though it is estimated that it has now reached some 40,000, the calculations here made are based on the census returns. The births registered were 565, giving a birth rate of 12·12. The deaths numbered 923 (discarding three which took place on board of passing ships), showing an increase over 1898, in which year the deaths numbered 869, and also over the previous years 1897 and 1896, in which they were 876 and 878 respectively. The death rate was 30·73.

Among Europeans the deaths numbered nine as against 14 in 1898, the causes of death being blackwater fever four, remittent malarial fever two, and berri-berri, syncope, and extravasation of urine following stricture, one each. This is a little below the average for the previous five years (10·6), if the cases occurring on board passing ships are left out of account; if these are reckoned, the average for the five years would be 12·2.

Climate.

The depressing character of the climate is well known. The periods at which this is more marked are the months of April and May, and October and November, when the "dries" change to the "rains" and the "rains" to the "dries," the only two seasons on this part of the coast. The "dries" are varied by the "harmattan," the very dry easterly breeze that blows from the Sahara, and that is so much disliked by the natives. The two changes of season are the most unhealthy times and the times that are the most trying, the alternations of rain and sunshine producing a steamy heat that is oppressive.

Temperature.

In Freetown the temperature is fairly stable and there are no sudden variations. In 1899 the extreme range was 23°, the minimum being 67° and the maximum 90°, while the average minimum was 69° and the average maximum 87°, giving a mean range of only 18°. On the hills behind Freetown the temperature is, of course, less and the nights are much cooler; and it is undoubtedly on these hills, and not in Freetown itself, as at present, that the European population of the city should have their residences. At Panguma, in the Protectorate, the range is greater and the nights are cooler than they are in Freetown; a maximum of 94° has been recorded and a minimum of 55°.

Rainfall.

At Freetown last year this was below the average, being 146·63 inches as against an average of 174·41 for 19 years. The greatest fall was in August, as is usual, and reached 37·59 inches, the average for 19 years being 39·60 inches. The maximum fall on one day was 7·05 inches in the very middle of August, the 15th. In January and February there was not a drop of rain; in March there were two days on which rain fell and in April five; in May the days on which rain fell rose to 16; the next five months had about 25 inches each. November had nine, and in December there were but two.

In Panguma the rainfall is much less. The records for 1899 are incomplete, as also are those for 1898; but in 1897 only 91 inches were noted, and in 1898 there were 69·38 inches for the second half of the year, including the rainy months of July, August, September, and October.

Direction of Wind.

The prevailing breeze is westerly, the sea breeze that is so welcome. It veers to the east when the harmattan blows; and the tornadoes come from the east. These tornadoes blow with great violence for a short while, with rain and lightning, and then pass away; and they occur at the change of the seasons.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The receipts of the Postal Department for the year 1899 amounted to £2,662 16*s.* 2*d.*, the expenditure being £4,487 14*s.* 6*d.*, net deficit £1,824 18*s.* 4*d.* This was due to

SIERRA LEONE, 1899.

the introduction of the penny postage, and also to the fact that the sales of stamps on account of fees of court, &c., being placed under those heads of service and not under Post Office receipt. A telegraph service was opened in conjunction with the Sierra Leone Railway on the 1st May, 1899, as far as Songo Town. There is telephonic communication between the Governor's Office, the Secretariat, and the Police Stations. Government House can also communicate with Tower Hill barracks through the military line.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The Colony does not contribute to the upkeep of the regular forces in the command, which in 1899 cost the Imperial Government for local expenditure £184,406 4*s.* 7*d.*, *i.e.*:—

		£	*s.*	*d.*
Army expenditure	...	173,400	10	5
Navy "	...	4,338	0	0
Ships "	...	6,661	0	0
Treasury expenditure	...	6	14	2
		£184,406	4	7

X.—RAILWAY.

The first section of the railway which is to run from Freetown into the interior in an easterly direction was formally opened to general traffic on the 1st of May, 1899. This section extends to Songo Town, a distance of 32 miles, with intermediate stations at Cline Town (which is within the municipal boundaries of Freetown), Kissy, Wellington, Hastings, Waterloo, and Newton, and the terminous in Freetown is connected with the Customs wharves on which all passengers and goods from other ports are landed. The line is being extended from Songo Town to Rotifunk, some 25 miles, and this second section will be thrown open in the course of the current year. The construction of a further extension to Bo, a town with a poulation of about 6,000, on the confines of the Bandajuma and Panguma districts; but this further extension will be of the nature of a lighter line, with bridges, &c., not of a lasting character, to be replaced by permanent structures as the traffic is developed. The railway is a single line, with a gauge of two feet six inches.

So far as the line has been opened to traffic the results are encouraging, the net loss on the working expenses having been only £44 10*s*. 8*d*. on the period from 1st May to 31st December, as seen in this table:—

Expenditure.					Earnings.				
	£	*s.*	*d.*	Per cent.		£	*s.*	*d.*	Per cent.
Maintenance of way, works and stations	846	8	9	—	Coaching ...	4,622	8	1	84·90
					Goods traffic	298	7	11	5·47
Locomotive expenses.	2,012	9	10	—	Telegraph receipts.	104	1	6	1·91
Carriage and wagon expenses.	109	0	8	—	Sundries ...	419	17	6	7·72
						5,444	15	4	
Traffic expenses	973	3	5	—	Net loss ...	44	10	8	
	5,489	5	8	—		5,489	5	8	100·00

The net loss, it will be seen, is only on the working expenses, the expenditure, not including charges for interest, &c., on the capital outlay for construction. No account is taken of these, as a final statement of the actual cost of this section of the line has not yet been furnished from the construction department. Seeing that the railway has not as yet tapped any rich district, and has to compete with cheap water-borne traffic from Waterloo by the Rokelle River, while the present rates have been fixed by no means too low, the prospects of the earnings of the undertaking are fairly bright. It is when the rails have reached Bo, the point at which a country rich in produce will first really be tapped, that the earnings of the line will grow. The present satisfactory result, with the existing great disproportion between the coaching and goods traffic, gives evidence of this.

Of the earnings under the head of coaching a little over 10 per cent. was derived from rates on passengers' luggages, rates which have since been abolished; and the passengers carried were divided according to classes as under:—

First	4,202
Second	36,123
Third	7,166

bringing in £3,329 4*s*. 8*d*.

No statistics of the earnings from goods traffic are available for last year, unfortunately; while of the telegraph receipts it need only be said that messages were sent, though telegraphic business was not done at all stations. Under sundries, the carriage of earth and sand for the Imperial Government brought in £354 17*s*. 6*d*.

On the expenditure side the cost of maintenance of way, works, and stations work out to about £26 a mile, but it is necessary to state that the cost of maintaining the permanent way for the last 10 miles to Songo Town, which was disproportionately heavy owing to the imperfect condition in which the line was taken over, has for the present been charged to capital account. The locomotive expenses were heavy, this being due to the proportion of the European staff in that department being much larger than in any other.

The present Acting Manager is sanguine as to the ultimate profit-earning capacity of the railway. He states that, "the earnings have been derived from what may fairly be described as permanent sources, which continue to expand," and that, "there are many profitable sources for increase which are not yet catered for, but which will be as soon as our organisation becomes elastic."

XI.—RATES OF WAGES.

The rates of wages for native labour in Freetown vary from 15*s*. to 30*s*. a month. The rate for labourers on the railway is 9*d*. a day, and carriers employed by the Government and Commissariat in the Protectorate receive 1*s*. a day; it is probable that traders, particularly natives, can obtain carriers for less, but whatever the wages paid the cost of transport seriously militates against remunerative profits. The existing rates of wages are undoubtedly too high for profitable trade, but as the necessity for large numbers of Government and military carriers has ceased outside the railway requirements it is to be anticipated that the rates of wages will have a tendency to decrease in the future.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

General Condition of the Colony.

Though the Revenue last year, viz., £168,382, was abnormally large, being 63 per cent. higher than the average of the preceding five years, from causes which have been already explained, and though such large receipts cannot be expected to recur, still the financial condition of the Colony cannot be considered as unsound. The receipts for the current year are keeping in advance of the Estimates, the total of which is £156,466, and the Expenditure is not exceeding the limits. The imports up to the present date exceed those for the corresponding period of any previous year except the last, and the exports are gradually returning to the average of previous years. The affairs of the Protectorate are getting ordered and settled, and the house tax is coming in well. The native chiefs are beginning to realise and appreciate their status under the Government, under which all their proprietory and civil rights are strictly reserved to them, as well as the exercise of their judicial functions, the latter, however, within certain limitations when persons other than natives are concerned and in graver crimes, such limitations being obviously necessary for the prevention of injustice and wrong. They begin to realise that their authority is being supported by the Government and their position recognised and respected by the officials, as long as they govern their people justly and well, and they begin to appreciate the material advantage in the shape of a more certain revenue which is accruing to them from the commission they derive from the house tax and from the more settled state of affairs generally which exists. Many are taking to trade and beginning to understand that there are other chattels besides a multiplicity of slaves and wives which conduce to material wealth and prosperity, though there may be still some, and these the more turbulent spirits, who sigh for the days when they could raid at will the territories of their weaker brethren and bring back as booty huge caravans of slaves.

Prospects of Trade.

It cannot but be admitted that the volume of trade is increasing, though it may well be that through greater competition the profits of individual traders are less, but as to the prospects of trade, it has hitherto been the universal experience that the construction of railways develops the resources of a country, and there is every reason to conclude that this invariable result will obtain in the Protectorate, which is so rich in indigenous vegetable products. Besides the railway the great desideratum for the development of trade is a cheaper method of transport than the human carrier, by means of metalled roads and vehicular traffic, and until the expenses of transport are much cheapened the profits of trade must be narrow, and this will be more and more the case as cash becomes more and more the medium of trade instead of goods, and as an increasing number of natives realise the advantage of working for a money wage and its necessity also, in view of the payment of the house tax instead of for goods in kind. In the Protectorate produce is bartered either for goods or cash, 5*s.* worth of goods representing usually 4*s.* in cash, but under the increasing demand for cash payments on the part of the natives, it may be anticipated that in no great lapse of time cash will become the sole medium for the purchase of produce, as is now the case in Freetown and elsewhere throughout the Peninsula of Sierra Leone. An instance of the increasing circulation of cash is the fact, which has already been mentioned, that 97 per cent. of the house tax—the revenue from which is estimated at £25,000—is now being collected in coin.

The altered conditions of the hinterland effected by the proclamation of the Protectorate, such as:—The maintenance of law and order; the introduction of a railway; the imposition of direct taxation; and the circulation of coin, by which cash is rapidly becoming the medium of traffic in place of produce, are all potent factors in affecting trade, and they would appear to work in its general interest, if the improved fiscal statistics of the Colony during recent years may be taken as an indication.

Sierra Leone,

10th August, 1900

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1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 324.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 299.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1901.

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301	Seychelles	"
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16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 324.

Sierra Leone,
1900.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 299.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. A. KING-HARMAN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Fort Thornton,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
18th May, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information the Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900.

The Report has been compiled by the Colonial Secretary, Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Gore, and contains much information of an exceedingly interesting nature.

I have, &c.,

C. A. KING-HARMAN,

Governor.

9329—800—6/1901 Wt 24600 D & S—5

Sierra Leone, 1900.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue for the year 1900 has exceeded that of 1899 by £286, being the highest on record. That for 1899 was over 43 per cent. above the preceding year, or nearly 63 per cent. higher than the average of the five preceding years, from 1894-1898.

The Expenditure was within the Revenue, though it exceeded that for 1899 by £11,323.

The following table exhibits the growth of the Revenue and Expenditure during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1891...	89,869	77,965
1892...	86,866	83,852
1893...	92,769	84,961
1894...	98,838	93,100
1895...	97,852	100,248
1896...	97,109	116,183
1897...	106,009	111,678
1898...	117,682	121,112
1899...	168,382	145,089
1900...	168,668	156,421

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF REVENUE.

Tax or Duty according to the Classification embodied in the Estimates.	Amount collected in the Year 1899.	Amount collected in the Year 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	121,847 18 9	102,969 6 0	—	18,878 12 9
Port, Harbour and Light Dues	3,624 9 9	3,071 14 6	—	552 15 3
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified... ...	5,259 4 10	5.334 10 1	75 5 3	—
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and re-imbursements in aid.	3,598 10 2	4,177 4 1	578 13 11	—
Post Office and Savings Bank	2,662 16 2	2,878 15 5	213 19 3	—
Rents of Government Property	218 18 0	328 3 5	109 5 5	—
Interest	1,422 10 7	1,652 16 4	230 5 9	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,892 1 3	4,516 11 5	1.624 10 2	—
Railway	4,898 14 1	10,272 17 3	5,374 3 2	—
Land Sales	14 0 0	—	—	14 0 0
PROTECTORATE.				
Fines, Forfeitures, Fees of Court, &c.	357 7 8	225 2 3	—	132 5 5
Spirit Licences	750 15 0	1,298 15 0	548 0 0	—
Store Licences	1,470 5 0	1,898 7 0	428 2 0	—
House Tax	19,364 3 4	30,045 16 2	10,681 12 10	—
Total	£168,381 14 7	£168,667 18 11	£19,863 17 9	£19,577 13 5

It will be seen that the receipts under "Protectorate" are chiefly responsible for the larger Revenue of 1900, the increase under that head being £11,657 14*s.* 10*d.* beyond that of the previous year, but there is also a considerable increase under heads of "Railway" and "Miscellaneous Receipts."

The decrease of £18,878 12*s.* 9*d.* under Customs is accounted for by the fact that the Customs Receipts for 1899 were abnormal, as in the latter year these Receipts were swelled owing to the larger importations necessary to re-stock stores looted during the Rising in 1898.

The large increase in Protectorate receipts is of course due to the more settled state of the Protectorate, and the fact that the natives are beginning to realise that the tax is necessary. There is every prospect of the amount being largely exceeded, as a considerable portion of the districts, particularly Bandajuma, have not yet been thoroughly assessed.

The figures in the table following illustrate the development that is being effected:—

PROTECTORATE REVENUE.

Service.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£
House Tax	6,341	19,364	30,046
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court ...	277	358	225
Spirit Licences	246	751	1,299
Store Licences	890	1,470	1,898
Total	7,754	21,943	33,468

The house tax is 5*s.* a house, the spirit and store licences £2 each yearly, or 25*s.* half-yearly.

EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure, as will be seen from the table given at the commencement of this report, has grown considerably within the last few years, but it will be seen also to be well within the Revenue, although that for 1900 exceeds the Revenue of the previous year by £11,322 5*s*. 8*d*. The following table shows the increase and decrease under each head:—

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

Head of Expenditure according to the Classification employed in the Estimates.	Amount expended, 1899.	Amount expended, 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Charge on account of Public Debt	6,563 6 3	10,082 1 1	3,518 14 10	—
Pensions	3,925 7 10	4,680 14 0	755 6 2	—
Governor and Legislature	4,219 14 2	3,550 7 7	—	669 6 7
Colonial Secretary's Department	2,441 13 9	2,732 12 6	290 18 9	—
Native Affairs	583 7 4	—	—	583 7 4
Provincial Administration	1,529 15 1	1,389 15 11	—	139 19 2
Treasury	1,662 6 6	1,899 9 2	237 2 8	—
Customs Department	10,472 15 11	9,471 10 10	—	1,001 5 1
Audit Department	1,147 7 5	1,358 1 4	210 13 11	—
Port and Marine Department	740 15 5	932 10 6	191 15 1	—
Legal Department	5,289 18 11	5,332 19 0	43 0 1	—
Civil Police	8,828 13 8	8,396 8 9	—	432 4 11
Prisons	4,606 3 4	4,022 6 1	—	583 17 3
Medical Department	3,983 18 3	3,759 19 10	—	223 18 5
Hospitals and Dispensaries	3,769 15 5	4,099 6 5	329 11 0	—

SIERRA LEONE, 1900.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Head of Expenditure according to the Classification employed in the Estimates.	Amount expended, 1899.			Amount expended, 1900.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Nursing Home ...	*			713	19	9	713	19	9	—		
Education ...	2,306	10	5	2,946	1	1	639	10	8	—		
Transport ...	1,287	16	1	1,029	18	0	—			257	18	1
Miscellaneous Services ...	6,956	7	3	7,417	17	6	461	10	3	—		
Post Office ...	6,617	1	3	4,431	4	3	—			2,185	17	0
Colonial Steamer ...	3,102	0	7	1,762	8	8	—			1,339	11	11
Botanical and Agricultural Department ...	772	2	10	1,198	19	11	426	17	1	—		
Railway ...	10,493	4	8	22,320	4	3	11,826	19	7	—		
Public Works Department ...	1,788	2	8	2,319	1	6	530	18	10	—		
Do Recurrent ...	5,054	3	10	5,021	1	6	—			33	2	4
Do. Extraordinary ...	4,870	3	7	6,424	16	2	1,554	12	7	—		
Frontier Police...	25,672	7	0	22,126	18	7	—			3,545	8	5
Protectorate ...	14,129	0	11	17,000	2	7	2,871	1	8	—		
Military Expedition ...	2,260	3	3	—			—			2,260	3	3
Telegraphs ...	14	7	6	—			—			14	7	6
Total ...	£145,088	11	1	£156,420	16	9	24,602	12	11	£13,270	7	3

* Included under Medical Department in 1899.

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The largest increase, viz., that under Railway Department, is due to the necessary expenditure incurred in opening the line from Songo to Rotifunk, and also owing to the estimate for 1900 being insufficient. It was the first estimate made, and therefore very difficult to arrive at with any degree of certainty.

The next largest increase, *i.e.*, £3,518 14*s.* 10*d.* under "Charge on account of Public Debt," was owing to the further advances obtained by the Crown Agents pending issue of loans.

"Public Works Extraordinary," increase £1,554 12*s.* 7*d.*, due to expenditure under sub-head Furniture, Government House, increased expenditure on Drainage System and reconstruction of Streets and Bridges in Freetown, and renewal and renovation of the Treasury, &c.

Protectorate, increase £2,871 1*s.* 8*d.*, chiefly owing to the creation of new Assistant District Commissioners in 1900.

TAXATION.

There was no change of any moment in taxation during the year under review, except that a house tax was imposed on the houses in the Colony, exclusive of the City of Freetown, which was already taxed by the Municipality under Ordinance No. 11 of 1900.

The tax so collected is applied solely in carrying out Public Works and improvement in the various districts of the Colony, local boards being appointed to advise the Governor in Council as to the nature of such work which they may recommend as being most required.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The liabilities of the Colonial Government on the 31st December, 1900, amounted to £117,591 13*s.* 7*d.*, and the Assets to £120,197 17*s.* 3*d.*, or a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of £2,606 3*s.* 8*d.* This is not taking into consideration the sum of £44,205 18*s.* 6*d.* due to the Colony on account of advances to meet the local expenditure of the Sierra Leone Railway Construction, and which will be repaid to the credit of the Colony so soon as the Railway Loans authorized are taken up.

PUBLIC DEBT.

There is no Public Debt at present, but advances are still being obtained by the Crown Agents at current bank rates to meet the expenses in connection with the Railway Extension. At the end of 1900 these advances amounted to £307,539, and the Colony has advanced for the same purpose out of its surplus funds £44,206, which of course will be repaid so soon as the loan (£631,000), which has been authorised, has been raised.

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CURRENCY.

In the Colony the general currency is British sterling—silver and gold. French gold Napoleons and silver five-franc pieces are also current, being legal tender at 15*s.* 10*d.* and 3*s.* 10½*d.* respectively, and, though not legal tender, there are a certain number of silver French francs in circulation. French silver money is also to be found in the Protectorate, more particularly in the districts bordering on French Guinea. There is no paper currency. In Freetown a branch of the Bank of British West Africa is established, with which the Colonial Government's banking business is transacted, but this bank is not authorised to issue notes.

The rate of exchange with London varies from par to about 1¼ per cent.

In the Protectorate, until within recent years, nearly the whole of the trade was carried on by barter, and a considerable portion of it is so dealt with now, but a knowledge of the value of money is becoming more common and its use more general. Nearly all the house tax is now paid in cash instead of produce.

MUNICIPALITIES.

There are 15 City Councillors of whom 12 are elected annually and three are nominated by the Governor in Council.

The Revenue of the Municipality is derived from City Rates, trade licences and licences taken out by professional men, druggists, &c., shop, store, and hawkers' licences, licences on rickshaws, carts, hammocks, and bicycles, &c., market, slaughter house, sanitary dues, and an annual grant of £1,800 a year from the Government.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipality for the five years of its existence are as under:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus or deficit.
	£	£	£
1895–6	4,333	2,240	+2,093
1896–7	3,575	4,162	− 587
1897–8	3,561	5,405	− 2,044
1898–9	5,122	5,088	+ 34
1899–1900	4,526	4,525	+ 1
Total	21,117	21,420	— 503

Included in the receipts of 1898-9 is a sum of £300 raised locally by way of debenture loan, repayable within 30 years. This sum should not have been passed to Revenue in the Municipal Accounts; instead of a surplus, therefore, of £34, there is an actual deficit for that year of £266.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of all Imports for 1900 was £558,271, as against £689,806 in the previous year.

The total value of Exports in 1900 is £362,741, as against £336,011, being an increase of £26,730.

The following table gives the values of both Imports and Exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1896...	494,688	449,033
1897...	457,389	400,748
1898...	606,348	290,991
1899...	689,806	336,011
1900...	558,271	362,741

It will be seen that the Exports show a steady recovery from the heavy fall of 1898.

Imports.

The large quantities of stores imported for both the Imperial and Colonial Governments in the recent years have contributed

SIERRA LEONE, 1900.

to swell the imports. These are shown separately in the following table, in which the totals of other imports are also included:—

Year.	Imperial Government.	Colonial Government.	Specie.	Other.
	£	£	£	£
1896	14,418	26,575	22,389	431,306
1897	11,176	39,753	6,045	400,415
1898	112,135	42,687	45,154	406,373
1899	68,167	37,442	32,818	551,378
1900	36,208	37,738	5,119	479,205

Till the year 1899, therefore, no great fluctuations are apparent in the imports, apart from Imperial and Colonial Government stores and from specie. The increase for 1899 is therefore the more remarkable, and, as has been before stated, was due in a great measure to the destruction of property, of factories, and the merchandise stored in them, during the rising in 1898. It will be observed that for the year 1900 the imports under head of Imperial Government and specie have largely decreased, owing to the peaceful condition of the Colony.

As compared with 1899 the principal increases and decreases were on articles detailed in the following table:—

—	1899.	1900.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Ale and Porter	5,249	5,143	106
Building Materials	15,920	11,774	4,146
Carts and Carriages	4,989	3,384	1,605
Cotton Goods	184,743	134,624	50,119
Flour	18,883	18,085	798
Haberdashery	22,076	19,032	3,044
Lumber	11,125	10,256	869
Carried forward	262,985	202,298	60,687

——	1899.	1900.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Brought forward	262,985	202,298	60,687
Oil, Kerosine	5,268	4,077	1,191
Salt	14,603	12,995	1,608
Sugar	8,938	7,917	1,021
Tobacco	31,897	27,375	4,522
Wines and Spirits...	41,652	38,652	3,000
Woollen Goods	12,829	6,906	5,923
Apparel	18,441	14,002	4,439
Bread	5,575	4,129	1,446
Butter	3,930	3,255	675
Cartridges	5,562	4,675	887
Cement	3,243	2,750	493
Guns and Gunpowder	1,404	577	827
Provisions	17,494	12,553	4,941
Rice...	8,521	6,221	2,300
Coin and Bullion	32,818	5,129	27,689
Wood, Manufactured	54	Nil.	54
Other Goods	158,689	135,587	23,102
Total	633,903	489,098	144,805

——	1899.	1900.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Coal	20,400	29,439	9,039
Hardware	33,234	35,340	2,106
Machinery	2,269	4,394	2,125
Total	55,903	69,173	13,270

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The figures in the foregoing two tables are amalgamated and placed side by side with those of the three preceding years in the following table:—

Year.	Apparel.	Coals.	Coin and Bullion.	Cotton Goods.	Flour.	Haberdashery.	Hardware.	Lumber.	Oil, Kerosine.	Provisions.	Rice.	Salt.	Spirits.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Wines.	Woollen Goods.	Empty Bags.	Country Cloths.	Beads.
1896	9,189	16,651	22,389	175,095	10,131	21,808	38,957	8.324	5,065	13,041	1,561	11,567	16,407	5,500	19,147	4,235	7,371	5,234	2,500	8,212
1897	10,410	13,083	6,045	160,012	9,801	16,779	42,624	2,229	3,136	11,507	893	9,000	17,034	5,993	24,654	5,730	10,253	3,926	2,925	7,159
1898	23,759	33,278	45,154	134,674	12,695	17,370	41,183	5,004	4,618	21,899	9,089	9,406	23,639	7,088	16,261	5,223	10,563	5,253	4,797	4,379
1899	18,441	20,400	32,818	134,743	18,888	22,076	33,234	11,125	5,268	17,494	8,521	14,603	34,945	8,938	28,596	6,708	12,829	5,407	7,523	6,060
1900	14,002	29,439	5,129	134,624	18,085	19,032	35,840	10,256	4,077	12,553	6,221	12,995	33,916	7,917	27,375	4,736	6,906	5,808	6,813	3,892

It will be seen that except as regards coal, hardware, and machinery, there is a general decrease in the year under review as compared with 1899.

Under apparel the large increase in 1898 was, as explained in my report for that year, mainly due to the uniform, &c., required on the formation of the West African Regiment and to other importations by the Imperial Government, and it will be seen that this is gradually decreasing to a normal condition. The large specie importations in 1898 were due mainly to the requirements of the military expedition following on the native rising, and continuing in 1899; as was also the rise in provisions in 1898 and rice in 1898 and 1899; in the latter case the rise being also partly due to the non-planting of the greater portion of the rice-producing area in consequence of the unsettled state of the country. The value of these importations has dropped in 1900; but as regards coin and bullion it must be remembered that there is now an established bank in Freetown, and in regard to cotton goods it is owing to the extra large importations in 1899. The increases in 1900 in hardware and coal result from the railway works principally and also from the increased price of coal. The increase under the head of machinery is due to the fact that machinery for agricultural and industrial purposes is now introduced free, and therefore there have been larger importations during the year for various purposes. The demand for spirits still continues to increase, but 1900 is below that for the previous year, the importations for which year were abnormal, being in a measure due to the necessity for replacing stocks destroyed in the rising of 1898.

The figures of the following table show the import duties collected in the last five years:—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1896...	22,094	52,669	74,763
1897...	24,386	58,489	82,875
1898...	24,245	60,359	84,604
1899...	32,543	89,305	121,848
1900...	26,318	76,650	102,968

The Customs revenue for 1899 is the largest that has ever been collected in the Colony, showing an increase over that of 1898 of £37,244, or about 44 per cent., and although that for 1900 is £18,800 less, yet it is considerably above the revenue

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for any other year, and may be considered as being very satisfactory. International competition in the trade lies principally with Germany and the United States of America, and to a lesser degree with France.

As against £425,245 worth of imports from the United Kingdom, Germany sent £51,987 to Sierra Leone, the United States of America £44,374, and France £7,819. The expansion of the trade with Germany has been so steady that the following comparative table will be of interest. The figures given exclude importations made by the Colonial and Imperial Governments:—

Imports.	From Germany.			From Great Britain.		
	1898.	1899.	1900.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Boats	400	2,600	550	2,708	1,003	2,282
Butter	595	1,514	1,081	3,742	2,382	2,103
Apparel, Haberdashery, hats, and caps.	1,035	2,053	3,454	28,654	36,125	29,553
Cotton goods ...	5,662	9,240	6,848	126,242	171,772	123,236
Cutlery	1,664	3,271	2,807	836	1,110	618
Gin	4,417	9,944	12,775	1,513	2,018	1,510
Hardware	669	1,149	12,000	23,583	21,711	14,589
Matches	891	1,084	1,069	75	750	223
Perfumery	1,013	2,657	2,316	757	996	1,096
Rum	3,448	6,950	5,320	3,838	4,430	4,584
Sugar, refined ...	926	1,530	1,454	2,397	2,595	2,461
Whiskey or Spirits ...	1,349	1,642	1.418	6,280	6,052	5,291
Woollen goods ...	1,159	2,095	1,102	8,812	9,842	5,268

The United States of America hold the market for lumber and kerosine oil, the other principal articles coming from the States being biscuit in barrels, provisions, and beef and pork. Wines constitute the chief imports from France, other imports from that country being cotton goods, rice, umbrellas, and silks.

In regard to the importation of cotton goods from other countries, I understand that Germany is gradually getting a large sale for prints in this Colony owing to the fact that the

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German firms are far more liberal than are those in England, *i.e.*, in sending out a larger assortment of patterns, using better dyes, and their patterns in consequence being better printed, neater, and more varied in design. I learn also that the German firms are more obliging, not objecting to any trouble in satisfying a good customer. It appears most of the cloth is made in England, but it is sent to Germany to dye, and I understand that the German Government acts very liberally towards their merchants in regard to rebate of duty on their importing a certain quantity of cloth to be afterwards exported for trade purposes, and this naturally helps the German firms in supplying goods at a reasonable price.

Cutlery.

It will be seen that our English firms cannot compete with Germany in this article of commerce. It appears that the English market will not supply the cheap class of goods required for the West Coast trade. Possibly the English firms cannot do so owing to the fact that labour is cheaper on the Continent.

Gin.

This is an important article of commerce in West Africa, and in the cheap variety, *i.e.*, trade gin, we cannot compete with increasing.

Matches and Perfumery.

Germany is a long way ahead in the supply of these articles, and it is probably accounted for by the cheaper labour market.

Rum.

The trade rum is what chiefly comes from Germany, but it will be seen that the supply of this spirit from England is increasing.

Exports.

The increase in the Export of 1900, as given in the table at the commencement of this section was £26,730, nearly 8 per cent. rise on the Exports for 1899. These figures are still below the average of the years 1895 to 1897, but there is a steady improvement.

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A comparison of the principal articles of Export are given in the following table:—

Year.	Benniseed.		Ginger.		Gum Copal.		Hides.		Kola Nuts.		Palm Kernels.		Palm Oil.		Rice, African.		Rubber.		Cotton.
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	No.	£	Cwts.	£	Tons.	£	Galls.	£	Bush.	£	Cwt.	£	£
1896	18,559	12,577	19,636	14,145	3,900	12,258	306,235	13,645	9,712	38,352	21,084	151,846	326,089	17,546	16,884	4,205	13,316	79,196	39,646
1897	12,941	7,555	18,524	13,506	3,767	13,142	33,753	5,030	12,716	46,552	17,671	129,910	181,647	9,149	24,499	6,736	11,658	79,787	28,148
1898	9,299	5,260	20,099	11,935	5,061	9,058	4,917	602	10,795	49,671	14,646	112,063	54,939	8,466	12,330	4,382	5,801	52,501	4,233
1899	2,319	1,118	12,168	6,223	2,338	10,719	3,394	706	9,616	61,645	20,058	163,271	78,420	4,555	7,374	2,563	4,882	43,729	2,666
1900	9,612	4,559	9,762	6,233	2,292	6,953	2,790	501	14,946	79,219	21,517	171,774	128,609	7,436	2,031	593	2,452	25,740	2,480

This table shows that under no head have the figures of 1900 reached those of 1897 in either quantities or values, except in the case of palm kernels and kola nuts. In 1899 the value of kola nuts exported exceeded that of 1897, but this year both the quantity and value is exceeded, and it will be observed that there is a general increase this year over 1899 under all the heads except those of ginger, gum copal, hides, African rice, rubber, and cotton, the largest decrease being in rubber, but that there is a large increase under palm oil. In the case of rubber, its decreased market value may be one of the causes of the decrease in the quantities of this product exported, but the main factor in the diminution in the exports of this article, as of other products of the interior, such as hides, &c., lies in the dues and impediments placed in the way of its transit into the Sierra Leone Protectorate from French territory at the back of, and bordering on, the Protectorate, and the efforts made to divert to French ports the caravans bringing it from the interior.

No statistics of this transit trade are obtainable in this Colony, but the following table compiled from figures obtained from French sources, and which appeared in last year's report, may serve as an indication of the value of the trade which is being lost, and will also show other sources of loss in the export trade. The values given are at rates decreed by the French Authorities:—

EXPORTS from FRENCH GUINEA to SIERRA LEONE.

Article.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£	£
Gum Copal	10,742	8,198	1,000	Not obtainable.
Hides...	6,374	5,317	891	
Palm Kernels	7,133	1,763	219	
Rubber	110,187	108,823	19,790	
Other produce	17,280	6,605	2,471	
Cattle, sheep, and goats ...	15,701	18,905	20,258	
Specie...	68	317	—	
Total ...	167,485	149,928	44,629	

This table also serves to illustrate what is exemplified by the steady decrease in the Exports of cotton goods shown in the one preceding it. The depôt or transit trade with the area known as the "Northern Rivers" (Rio Nunez, Rio Pongo, &c.), which at one time looked to Freetown as its port of supply, is fast dwindling, and forcible evidence of this is given in the following table showing the Exports to French Guinea:—

Article.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Amber and Beads	1,143	1,203	105	25	Not obtainable.
Cotton Goods	37,294	26,201	2,301	800	
Liquors... ...	1,632	1,119	15	—	
Salt	1,193	273	1	1	
Tobacco ...	2,777	1,589	244	87	
Other goods, except rice, and Specie.	15,776	8,300	4,423	3,335	
	59,805	38,685	7,089	4,248	
Rice	4,313	5,775	4,140	2,514	
Specie	160	838	15,100	9,691	
Total ...	64,288	45,296	26,329	16,453	

The direction of the export trade in the last five years is shown hereunder:—

Year.	Great Britain.	Gambia.	Other British Colonies.	Germany.	France.	United States of America.	Foreign Places on West Coast of Africa.	Foreign Places on East Coast of Africa.	Total to all Countries
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	203,495	18,881	3,013	103,209	26,891	1,109	93,497	2,286	449,033
1897	188,945	25,461	3,773	95,156	17,302	15	66,563	3,533	400,748
1898	117,726	26,663	4,284	80,746	8,134	—	49,164	4,275	290,991
1899	135,635	35,546	6,866	100,221	5,273	27	46,159	6,281	336,011
1900	125,559	44,852	14,423	112,076	10,584	—	48,181	6,796	362,471

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Germany is a steady rival purchaser of the Colony's Exports, her chief demand being for palm kernels. The Exports for this product to Germany in the years 1894, 1897, and 1900 are shown in the following table, as also those of gum copal and rubber, and are placed side by side with those sent to the United Kingdom:—

Export.	To Germany.			To Great Britain.		
	1894.	1897.	1900.	1894.	1897.	1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gum Copal	—	1,027	520	8,085	12,115	6,433
Palm Kernels ...	78,565	82,560	103,263	64,683	40,973	68,497
Rubber	1,501	7,042	3,406	49,436	72,745	22,335

The Export trade with the United States of America has vanished. That with France also shows signs of disappearing.

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

During 1898 a factory was established in Freetown for the manufacture of ice and aërated waters, but unfortunately this has practically failed, and a new company has not yet been started. Mineral waters are still made, but the manufacture of ice has been stopped. It is to be hoped that a company will be established shortly on a firm basis as ice is very much needed in this climate.

Country cloths are made in the Protectorate from native-grown cotton, dyed from the indigo plant, and also from yarn imported from Europe.

It is said that the Pearl oyster has been found in the waters about the Sherbro River, and an application has recently been made to the Government for a licence to search for them.

There are no mines, but several concessions have been made by native chiefs to Europeans and others, who propose to search for minerals in addition to the collection of native produce.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Agriculture is very primitive. Rice, cassada, and ginger are planted, also agousi benniseed and ground-nuts. The oil palm, rubber, gum, and kola nut are indigenous.

The Curator of the Botanic Station is still engaged in working up the experimental farm started last year at Songo in connection with the Freetown Station. A large number of rubber

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trees, chiefly Kickxia Africana, have been planted, also kolas, oranges, &c. Coffee grows freely, both the Sierra Leone and Liberian variety. Cinnamon, kola, and cocoa have done well in the nursery at the Botanic Station, and a greater portion of these plants have been transferred to the Songo Town Farm for experiments. No doubt cocoa would pay well in this Colony if properly cultivated, and it is the intention of the Government to obtain the best class of seeds from England.

Enquiries have recently been made in regard to the cocoa-nut industry. So far, the only use made of the cocoa-nut is to use the fibre for making hospital and other beds, but the preparations of copra from the cocoa-nut has not yet been attempted, and there appears to be a good opening in this direction. The same remarks apply in regard to the growing of cotton, which at present is neglected.

SHIPPING.

The shipping returns show a considerable increase in sailing vessels as compared with the previous year, which was in advance of that for the year 1898 in this respect, and also a slight increase in the number of steam vessels. In the following tabular statement the figures of the two years are placed side by side for comparison:—

Description.	1899.		1900.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Sailing vessels:				
Entered	172	7,086	300	6,753
Cleared	153	8,057	296	6,213
Total	325	15,143	596	12,966

Description.	1899.		1900.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Steam vessels:				
Entered	369	585,853	421	653,788
Cleared	367	580,752	396	642,179
Total	736	1,166,605	817	1,277,697
Grand Total...	1,061	1,181,748	1,413	1,290,933

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LEONE,
1900.

The same figures are here given so as to distinguish between the nationality of the shipping, both entered and cleared being combined:—

Nationalty.	1899.		1900.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Sailing vessels:				
British (Colonial)	39	1,515	307	1,069
French	244	2,835	244	2,168
Portuguese ...	23	358	28	368
American ...	16	10,378	17	9,361
German	3	57	—	—
Total	325	15,143	596	12,966
Steamers:				
British	574	918,256	658	993,259
French	31	34,145	10	7,790
German	33	29,467	42	40,379
Belgian	64	147,794	79	205,447
Spanish	26	28,927	22	28,732
Others	8	8,016	6	2,360
Total	736	1,166,605	817	1,277,967

Below is a comparative table for the last five years of the tonnage of the shipping, both entered and cleared:—

Year.	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1896	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745
1898	10,006	1,100,222	1,110,228
1899	15,143	1,160,605	1,181,748
1900	12,966	1,277,967	1,290,933

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III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 27 Ordinances passed during the year 1900;

The most important being:—

Ordinance No. 2.—For the development of Pearl Fishery in the Colony of Sierra Leone.

This measure was passed owing to an application received for a licence to search for pearls in Colonial waters and so establish a new industry.

Ordinance No. 5.—To make provision for the use of Imperial Weights and Measures of Great Britain in this Colony.

Ordinance No. 7.—To make provision for borrowing the sum of £310,000 from the Imperial Treasury, and for raising, appropriating, and applying the loan, and for the due repayment of the same as provided by the Colonial Loans Act, 1899.

This was necessary to make provision for meeting the expenses of the Sierra Leone Railway, &c.

Ordinance No. 9.—An Ordinance to regulate Weights and Measures in the Colony of Sierra Leone. This was passed to secure uniformity of weights and measures and to give the necessary power to an inspector, &c.

Ordinance No. 11.—For raising a Tax on Houses within the Colony of Sierra Leone.

This was passed to enable the Government to impose a House Tax in the Colony outside the municipal limits of Freetown, and provides for the money raised by the tax being applied only for the benefit of the Districts concerned under local boards who will advise the Governor in Council in regard to the special requirements within their districts—the Colony being divided into eleven districts.

Ordinance No. 12.—For raising a further sum of three hundred and twenty-one thousand pounds for the construction and equipment of the Sierra Leone Railway.

Ordinance No. 27.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Prisons.

This measure was under consideration for some time. It does away with three old Ordinances and makes various improvements in regard to the management of the prisons.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The Inspector of Schools in his General Report for 1899 presented in 1900, states as follows:—

"I regret that the year, the work of which is being reviewed, has not been a successful one from an educational standpoint. The teaching results in the schools are not satisfactory, but I must say that before we can have them as good, or anything nearly as good as they should be, we must have more teachers—teachers of better quality and ability and teachers with better pay."

The new rules (1899) that came into force in 1900 are intended to introduce a better state of things both as regards efficiency of teachers and to raise their salaries.

The number of schools separately inspected was seventy-one, including five infant schools taught with a view of earning the higher rates of grants. The number of schools actually under the "Education Rules," and inspected for grants is about the same as last year, that is to say:—

Schools.	No.	No. in previous year.
Church of England	40	41
Wesleyan	20	20
United Methodist Free Church ...	9	8
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	4	4
Roman Catholic...	3	2
United Brethren in Christ	1	1
Total	77	76

The total number of children on the roll, and the average attendance for the five years from 1895 to 1899, are here tabulated:—

Year.	On Roll.			Average Attendance.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1895	4,363	3,917	8,280	3,193	2,733	5,926
1896	4,423	3,993	8,416	3,163	2,720	5,883
1897	4,731	4,124	8,855	3,318	2,778	6,096
1898	4,563	3,795	8,358	3,173	2,534	5,707
1899	4,289	3,714	8,103	—	—	5,660

The percentage of the average attendance to the roll number is 69·8.

The annual grant earned in 1900 amounted to £1,393 19*s.* 9*d.*, as against £1,503 12*s.* 11*d.* in 1899. The Managers' returns of the amounts spent on the schools of the various denominational bodies are as follows:—

Schools.	Amount spent. £	s.	d.
Church of England	1,405	17	8
Wesleyan	959	18	11
United Methodist Free Church ...	354	4	10
Countess of Huntingdon	107	6	0
Roman Catholic	126	2	0
Other	176	14	2
Total	3,130	3	7

The returns for the previous year gave £3,059 4*s.* 8*d.* The income of the year from all available sources came to £5,032 6*s.* 8*d.*, as against £4,785 13*s.* 8½*d.* in the previous year. The increase over the preceding year is £246 12*s.* 11½*d.* The following table shows the amounts from the different sources for the two years, and is given for comparison:—

Sources of Income.	1898. £ s. d.	1899. £ s. d.
Government grants in aid	1,464 3 9	1,477 6 11
School fees	882 7 7	883 4 0
Class collections	739 2 1	764 14 3
Voluntary subscriptions	108 8 5½	82 2 1
Society grants	1,448 11 8¾	1,208 4 7½
Miscellaneous	68 16 11	79 4 9½
Balance from previous year	374 3 2¼	541 10 0
Total	4,785 13 8½	5,032 6 8

Of the number presented for examination, viz., 2,697 in all standards, the passes amounted to 1,435, or a percentage of passes of 53·2, as against 59 in the previous year.

This total average percentage is very low, and calls for greater efforts on the part of the teaching staffs. In Standard I. the percentage of passes was 62·5; Standard II., 66·6; Standard III., 40·9; Standard IV., 34·6; Standard V., 29·4; Standard VI., 19·5; Standard VII., 0.

The first and second standards are the only ones in which Masters seem to be really interested, and in which any good work appears to be done. By far the larger majority of children are in the two lowest (I. and II.), and very few get at all to the fifth, sixth, and seventh, more especially the last two.

Of the 2,697 children presented for examination the distribution in the various Standards is as follows:—

In Standards I. and II. - -	1,611
„ III. and IV. - -	865
„ V., VI., and VII. -	221
	2,697

which means that 59·7 per cent. of the whole are in the lowest standards, 32 per cent. in the middle ones, and only about 8·3 in the higher ones.

Of the successful examinees the distribution is as follows:—

In Standards I. and II. - -	1,039
„ III. and IV. - -	336
„ V., VI., and VII. -	60
	1,435

that is 72·4 per cent., 23·4 per cent., and 4·2 per cent. respectively of the whole. And this refers to the three "R's" so-called, not taking in any of the optional subjects—geography, history, and grammar.

The "Education Rules, 1899" came into operation at the beginning of 1900, and with it the Establishment of a Training College for teachers. Twelve men have entered to commence their training, and it is hoped that this step will supply sufficient teachers in the near future.

The results of the two last examinations for the Civil Service were again most unsatisfactory, only two or three having gained passes, an indication of the backward state of education in the lower grades.

PROTECTORATE MISSION SCHOOLS.

There are some 31 schools of this kind in the Protectorate. Twelve of these in the Ronietta District belong to the Home Frontier and Foreign Missionary Society in America of the United Brethren in Christ. In these schools the total number of pupils enrolled in 1900 was 498, the average attendance being shown at 331.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church possesses three schools in the Karene District, and they show 95 scholars on the roll in 1900, but the average attendance is not given.

The Church Missionary Society have six schools, viz., at Port Lokko, Rogbere, Makori, Mapoli, Makomp, and Fukunia. These schools show 80 scholars on the roll, with an average daily attendance of 59 in 1900. At Kambia there is a Church of England School under the Pongas Mission with 83 on school roll and average attendance of 55. There are also several schools under the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There are six schools of this class in the Colony, viz., three for boys and three for girls: one for boys and one for girls established by the Church Missionary Society: two Wesleyan Schools, one for boys and one for girls, the former belonging to, and maintained by, the Society in England, and the latter belonging to a Syndicate in the Colony: a Roman Catholic School for girls, conducted by a religious Sisterhood; and an undenominational Institute which is self-supporting.

HIGHER GRADE EDUCATION.

Fura Bay College, founded by the Church Missionary Society of England in 1827, and affiliated to the University of Durham in 1876, adequately provides a higher education, its staff consisting of the principal and three tutors.

The College provides several scholarships, some of which are for the promotion of Missionary Work on the West Coast of Africa, and its curriculum embraces a theological course for a licence in Theology, and an Arts course for the B.A. degree. It also issues junior and senior certificates in general education, the examination for which, held once a year, is open to any person on the West Coast of Africa, and may be held at any centre.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

A school of this class was opened in 1896 to the great benefit of the community, and its work continues to be successful. Under Government auspices, the course of free lectures to artizans on building construction, &c., commenced in 1898, was renewed in 1899 and 1900, a sum of £47 being provided in the Estimates for those years to meet the necessary expenses. A sum of £100 was granted by the Government in 1900 in aid of this Institution as a recognition of the good work done by it.

It is the intention of the Government to encourage technical education in the Protectorate.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

These Institutions are as follows:—

The General Hospital in Freetown, a Hospital at Bonthe (Sherbro), a Small-Pox Hospital at Kissy, near Freetown, one at Bonthe (Sherbro), a Lunatic Asylum at Kissy, and a Hospital for Incurables at the same place. Besides these Government Institutions there is a small hospital (The Princess Christian Cottage Hospital) with a private ward for paying patients, which is a Church of England Diocesan Institution, and to which the Government gives an annual grant of £50 per annum. This admirable institution is under the supervision of European nurses. In the out districts of the Colony there are several dispensaries, and in the five Protectorate Districts a small hospital in each.

The total number of patients treated in hospital in 1900 was 1,218, as against 1,088 in 1899 (926 males and 292 females), of whom 769 were discharged cured (601 males and 168 females), 211 relieved (152 males and 59 females), not relieved 98 (males 72, females 26), and 83 died (males 62, females 21); showing a daily average of 58·728 under treatment. The daily average under treatment in 1899 was 58·20.

SAVINGS BANK.

There are two Savings Banks attached to the Post Office Department: one in Freetown and the other in Bonthe, Sherbro. The interest given to depositors is 2½ per cent. per annum.

The following tabular statement shows the growth of the last five years:—

Year.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Balance, including interest.
	£	£	£
1896	19,078	17,307	39,426
1897	17,625	17,525	40,461
1898	23,273	21,418	43,304
1899	25,097	21,648	47,830
1900	25,711	24,687	47,837*

* Exclusive of Interest which will be about £1,100.

The investments on account of savings bank monies, all in Colonial Government Stocks, amount to £48,626 13*s.* 6*d.*, for which £48,618 5*s.* 9*d.* was paid, and the interest obtained in 1900 on these investments amounted to £1,639 16*s.* 4*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Civil Police.

The strength of this Force is as follows:—

1	Superintendent.
1	Inspector.
1	Sub-Inspector (a native of Sierra Leone).
21	Sergeants.
232	Constables.
11	Water Police.
Total 267	

This Force is used for the Colony only; its upkeep for 1900 came to £8,886.

Frontier Police.

This force consists of one Inspector-General, six Inspectors, ten Assistant-Inspectors, two Sub-Inspectors (natives of West Africa), 594 non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, and eight Clerks. It is organised into five companies, *i.e.*, one company for each of the five Protectorate Districts. In 1900 its upkeep amounted to £23,499.

Prisons.

There are three Prisons in the Colony. One at Freetown, one at Sherbro, and a very small one at Waterloo. The Freetown Prison has 28 wards and 8 cells. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to commence building a new prison, and the present building is by no means satisfactory.

As compared with the previous year the total number committed to the Freetown prison in 1900 shows a considerable decrease:—

—	1899.	1900.
For safe custody till or for want of security.	141	89
For penal imprisonment	537	364
Total	678	453

Of the total number committed last year 414 were men, 31 women, and 8 juveniles, as against (in 1899) 634 men, 29 women, and 15 juveniles.

The daily average in prison was 171, as against 185 in 1899. The health of the prison was good. The number of admissions to hospital was 110, as against 204 in 1899, the number of deaths was only 7, as against 15 in 1899, and the daily average on the sick list 17, as against 20 in 1899.

The industrial and remunerative work of the prison is progressing. Boots, clothing, &c., for police and other Government departments are now made in the prison. The prisoners' earnings for 1900 amounted to £1,739 17*s.* 6*d.*

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The last Census was taken in 1891, and showed a population in the Colony of 74,835; of which 224 were Europeans. The present population may be estimated at about 100,000. The population in the Protectorate is roughly estimated at 1,000,000.

Among Europeans the deaths in 1900 numbered 16, as against 9 in 1899, the causes of death being—malarial fever 7, internal obstruction 1, suicide 1, chronic Bright's disease 1, pneumonia 1, peritonitis 1, phthisis 1, enteritis 1, Thermi fever 1, drowning 1. This is above the average of the previous five years.

CLIMATE.

The depressing character of the climate is well known. The periods which are considered the most unhealthy are from April to June, and October to end of November, *i.e.*, when the "dries" change to the "rains" and the "rains" to the "dries." During the dry season, in January and February, a dry easterly breeze blows from the Sahara called the "harmattan," which is considered rather trying by the natives, causing, as it often does, colds and coughs; but to most Europeans it is considered fairly healthy.

TEMPERATURE.

In 1900 the extreme range of temperature was 25°, the minimum being 67° and the maximum 92°, while the average minimum was 68° and the average maximum 89°, giving a mean range of 21°. On the hills behind Freetown the temperature is, of course, less, and the nights are much cooler, and it is undoubtedly on these hills, and not in Freetown itself, as at present, that the European population of the city and those who desire to keep comparatively free from malaria, should have their residences. At Panguma and in the Koinadugu District of the Protectorate the range of temperature is greater and the nights are cooler than in Freetown.

RAINFALL.

In January and February there was no rain, in December only ·34 inches, in March 2·88, and April 4·30 inches; in June 41·36 inches fell, so that June and July were the wettest months in 1900.

In Freetown last year the rainfall was rather above the average, being 175·43 inches, as against 146·63 in 1899. The average for the past 19 years was about 174. The greatest fall in 1900 was in June, and reached 41·36 inches, the fall in August which is generally the wettest month being only 32·12 inches.

In Panguma and the Koinadugu District the rainfall is much less, but the records are incomplete.

DIRECTION OF WIND.

The prevailing breeze is westerly from the sea. It veers to the east when the harmattan blows; and the tornadoes come from the east. These tornadoes blow with great violence for a short while, with rain and lightning, and then pass away, leaving the air much cooler; and they occur at the change of the seasons, and are more frequent during the night or early morning.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The summary convictions for larceny in the Colony last year were 296, as against 362 in 1899.

The Police Magistrate of Freetown reports the decrease in crime last year. There were 180 convictions for offences against the person, as against 228 for the year 1899. For offences against property, other than larceny, one case only, as against four for the previous year, and for other offences 310 for 1900, as against 482 in 1899.

In the Supreme Court the number of persons committed for trial was 45, of which six were discharged on the cases against them falling through for want of prosecution; 16 were acquitted, and 23 were convicted of various offences, *i.e.*, one for murder, one manslaughter, three other offences against the person, two robbery with violence, 11 praedial larceny, two other offences against property, and three for miscellaneous offences.

It will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in crime as compared with last year, when there were 112 persons committed for trial, and 10 convictions for murder.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The Receipts of the Postal Department for the year 1900 amounted to £2,876 15*s*. 5*d*., the expenditure being £4,431 4*s*. 3*d*., net deficit £1,554 8*s*. 10*d*. This is due chiefly to the introduction on 25th December, 1898, of the penny postage, but as the deficit for 1899 was £1,824 18*s*. 4*d*., it will be seen that the postal revenue is gradually recovering from this reduction by a larger bulk of postal matters being sent. There is a telegraph service in conjunction with the railway as far as Rotifunk, 55½ miles from Freetown.

Government House, the Secretariat, and Police Stations are connected by a telephone service, and Tower Hill Barracks can be communicated with from Government House through the military line.

The following statement of the estimated number of letters, &c., dealt with during the past five years may be interesting:—

Statement of the Estimated number of Letters, &c., dealt with in the years 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

Particulars.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Letters and Post-cards.	238,285	268,273	299,739	374,035	383,548
Books and Newspapers.	113,782	121,198	126,813	141,989	137,095
Totals ...	352,057	389,471	426,552	516,024	520,643
Parcel Mails ...	5,688	5,732	6,700	8,746	10,144
Grand Totals	357,755	395,203	433,252	524,770	530,787

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The Colony does not contribute to the upkeep of the regular forces in the command, which in 1900 cost the Imperial Government for local expenditure £114,844 8*s.* 3*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Army Expenditure - -	105,535	15	4
Navy - - - - -	2,837	0	0
Ships - - - - -	6,350	0	0
Treasury Expenditure - -	121	12	11
	114,844	8	3

X.—RAILWAY.

The first section of the Sierra Leone Railway extending as far as Songo Town, a distance of 32 miles, was formally opened for traffic on the 1st May, 1899. In 1900, in the latter part of the year, the extension to Rotifunk (23¼ miles from Songo Town) was taken over by the open line, and is being used for traffic three times a week, although it has not been officially opened to the public, as it was not considered to be quite in open line order.

The stations between Freetown and Rotifunk, a distance of 55¼ miles, are Cline Town, Kissy, Wellington, Hastings, Waterloo, Newton, Songo Town, Mabang, and Bradford. The Construction Department are now engaged on the "Bo" extension; Bo being a town on the confines of the Bandajuma and Panguma Districts, and distant from Rotifunk 80½ miles. The railway is a single line with a gauge of 2 feet 6 inches. The extension to Bo will be of the nature of a lighter line, with bridges, &c. not of a lasting character, to be replaced by permanent structures as the traffic is developed.

The General Manager forwarding the accounts of the Sierra Leone Railway for the half year ended the 30th June, 1900, reports as follows:—

SIERRA LEONE, 1900.

REVENUE.

The following is the general result of last half year's working compared with the six months ending 31st December, 1899:—

—	1900.			1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenses...	6,857	3	5	4,391	16	9
Earnings...	4,891	11	6	3,809	15	4
Net loss	£1,965	13	11	582	1	5
Percentage of working expenses to earnings.	140	19	0	115	3	0

The length of mileage open was 32 throughout the period under review. The number of train-miles run was:—

—	1900.	1899.
	22,206	23,626
Decrease in 1900	1,420	

RECEIPTS.

The earnings were derived from the following sources:—

—	1900.				1899.			
	Amount.			Percentage of whole.	Amount.			Percentage of whole.
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Coaching Traffic ...	3,376	7	5	69·02	3,017	18	11	79·22
Goods Traffic ...	991	11	7	20·27	291	15	4	7·65
Electric Telegraph	83	9	5	1·71	81	2	2	2·12
Sundries	440	3	1	9·00	418	18	11	10·99
Total ...	£4,891	11	6	100·0	£3,809	15	4	100·0

—	1900.	1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross receipts per train mile	0 4 4·4	0 3 2·7
Gross receipts per open mile	152 17 3	119 1 1

The number of passengers carried and the receipts from coaching traffic were as under:—

No.	Amount.	Per cent. of whole.
1900.	£ s. d.	
Passengers 59,773	2,775 3 4	82·1
1899.		
Passengers 45,368	2,499 11 3	82·8
1900.	£ s. d.	
Passengers' luggage	287 15 8	8·7
Parcels	24 17 11	0·7
Country Produce	288 10 6	8·5
Total	£601 4 1	16·19
1899.	£ s. d.	
Passengers' luggage	357 9 3	11·8
Parcels	32 11 4	1·1
Country Produce	128 7 1	4·3
Total	£518 7 8	16·12

The General Manager adds that the increase in the number of passengers carried and the amount earned is very satisfactory, considering that since the 1st March passengers for the Construction and other Government departments were carried at half and three-quarter ordinary rates respectively.

On the whole, passengers increased in number carried 31·7 per cent., and in the amounts earned 11 per cent.

The decrease of £69 13*s*. 7*d*. under luggage was due partly to the rates for Construction and Government Departments having been lowered from 1st March, and partly to the introduction of a free allowance of 28 pounds per ticket from the 1st May.

Country produce shows a satisfactory increase of £160 3*s*. 5*d*

The goods traffic was:—

—	1900.	1899.
	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.
General Merchandise	261 15 4	291 15 4
Materials for extension	729 16 3	—

This shows a slight falling off of £30 in general merchandise. The whole of the haulage of materials account from 1st May, 1899, to 30th June, 1900, was credited in the latter year.

XI.—LABOUR.

The rates of wages for native labour in Freetown vary from 15*s*. to 30*s*. a month. The rate for labourers on the railway is 9*d*. a day, and carriers employed by the Government and Army Service Corps in the Protectorate receive 1*s*. per day. It is probable that traders, particularly natives, pay much less. During the latter part of 1900 we sent 5,000 carriers to the Gold Coast for service under that Government in connection with the Ashantee troubles, and this exodus of labour for the time being made it very difficult to obtain men for work in the Colony.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The Revenue last year was very satisfactory, being £168,667 18*s*. 11*d*., as against £168,382.

In the Protectorate, beyond the usual rumours of trouble during the dry season, everything was quiet, and the estimate for receipts under House Tax was exceeded by over £5,000, and

SIERRA LEONE, 1900.

under ordinary conditions there is every reason to hope that our receipts under this head for next year will be considerably greater. On the whole 1900 may be considered as being a satisfactory year for the Colony.

Colonel Sir F. Cardew, K.C.M.G., on completion of his six years as Governor, was relieved of the Government by Sir C. A. King-Harman, late Administrator of St. Lucia, West Indies. Sir Charles and Lady King-Harman arrived on the 11th December, Sir Frederic Cardew having left for England on the 26th November.

PROSPECT OF TRADE.

The trade and revenue of the Colony depend in a great measure on the Protectorate, and as the railway is extended into the rich districts, and good roads are made to the rail head, a much larger quantity of produce should be brought to Freetown for export, and in consequence, the import trade should expand as the natives in the interior learn more and more to appreciate goods from Europe. At present there is no doubt that a very considerable quantity of native produce remains uncollected, owing to the difficulty of transporting it to Freetown.

It will be seen, however, under head No. II. that the export trade is on the increase, though it has not yet reached the figures of the years 1896 and 1897.

J. C. GORE,
Colonial Secretary.

15th May, 1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 361.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 324.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
341	Ceylon	1900
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda...	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar...	"
360	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla...	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No. 361.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 324.)

ACTING GOVERNOR HENSTOCK to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Fort Thornton,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
2nd August, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1901 which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
F. J. HENSTOCK, Lieut.-Col.,
Acting Governor.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE, 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

It will be noticed with satisfaction that the financial condition of the Colony gives no cause for alarm, but on the other hand shows a decided progress. The revenue of 1901 far exceeded that of any previous year. The expenditure is larger than any previous year, but the reason of this is owing to the liberal policy adopted in Public Works in the Protectorate.

The Revenue collected in 1901 amounted to £192,138, and the Expenditure to £173,497.

The following table gives a comparison of the Revenue for the last two years classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	102,969	104,935	1,966	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	3,072	3,128	56	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,359	4,957	—	402
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in aid.	4,177	6,062	1,885	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	2,882	6,984	4,102	—
Rents on Government Property ...	328	163	—	165
Interest	1,653	20	—	1,633
Miscellaneous receipts	4,854	6,148	1,294	—
Railway	10,273	21,394	11,121	—
Protectorate	33,803	38,347	4,544	—
Total	169,370	192,138	24,968	2,200

The total increase of Expenditure in 1901 as compared with 1900 was £15,932.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of Expenditure for the last two years:—

EXPENDITURE.

Head.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	10,082	12.832	2,750	—
Pensions	4,681	4,837	156	—
Governor and Legislature	3,550	4,328	778	—
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	2,733	2,975	242	—
Provincial Administration	1,390	1,623	233	—
Treasury	1,900	2,020	120	—
Customs Department	9,490	8,685	—	805
Audit Department	1,358	1,302	—	56
Port and Marine Department ...	935	1,008	73	—
Legal Department	5,333	5,050	—	283
Civil Police	8,408	8,837	429	—
Prisons	4,031	3,983	—	48
Medical Department	3,761	4,730	969	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,510	5,504	994	—
Nursing Home	720	740	20	—
Education	2,946	3,247	301	—
Transport	1,063	1,236	173	—
Miscellaneous Services	7,505	8,552	1,047	—
Post Office	4,454	7,112	2,658	—
Colonial Steamer	1,874	1,541	—	333
Botanical and Agricultural Department.	1,199	1,443	244	—
Sierra Leone Railway	22,412	20,315	—	2,097
Public Works Department	2,319	2,586	267	—
„ „ Recurrent	5,065	5,071	6	—
„ „ Extraordinary	6,425	4,417	—	2,008
Frontier Police	22,317	23,707	1,390	—
Protectorate	17,064	25,776	8,712	—
Total	157,525	173,457	21,562	5,630

The increase, as I have already previously stated, is largely due to the opening up of the Protectorate. The only direct taxation is the hut and house tax; at present the rate in the Protectorate is 5*s.* per hut. The house tax in the Colony is 5*s.* for houses not exceeding annual rental value of £5, and 5 per cent. on houses exceeding annual rental value of £5. The proceeds of the latter tax do not form part of General Revenue, but is expended in improving the districts in which it is raised. During the year under review there has been no increase in either taxation or in Customs duties. There is no Funded Debt. The sum of £39,765 is due to the Imperial Government on account of the military expeditions in 1898-99, repayable in annual instalments of £5,000.

The Crown Agents had advanced £417,899 up to 31st December, 1901, for railway construction in anticipation of the issue of Inscribed Stock. In addition to this sum the Colony has expended from its surplus fund £74,522 on railway works, which amount will be refunded to Revenue when the loan is raised. The Colony is indebted to the Crown Agents in the sum of £13,121 overpaid by them on current account on 31st December, 1901.

The following table exhibits the growth of Revenue and Expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	106,009	111,678
1898	117,682	121,112
1899	168,382	145,088
1900	169,370	157,525
1901	192,138	173,457

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports in 1901 was £548,286, and the value of exports £304,010, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £852,296, a decrease of £68,446 on the year 1900.

The following table shows the general classification of all Imports:—

Articles.	Value in sterling including expenses.
	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	154,558
2. Raw materials—	
Metal and other	1,059
3. Manufactured articles—	
(*a*) Textile	176,739
(*b*) Metal	57,686
(*c*) Other	156,342
4. Coin and Bullion	1,902

Making a total of £548,286

The Customs receipts during the year at the two ports of the Colony were as follows:—

Ports.	Imports exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder and Guns	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Freetown ...	52,397	29,976	30	69	82,472
Bonthe	6,742	14,276	—	—	21,018
Total ...	59,139	44,252	30	69	103,490

The following comparative table for the last five years shows that the greater proportion of the Import trade is with the United Kingdom:—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Colonies.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1897	377,508	6,097	73,784	457,389
1898	512,099	12,733	81,517	606,349
1899	544,586	19,596	125,624	689,806
1900	425,245	13,211	119,815	558,271
1901	411,578	10,857	125,851	548,286

The value of Imports in 1901 shows a decrease of £9,985 on the previous year, and, judging by figures, does not compare favourably with previous years, as will be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Value of Imports excluding Colonial and Imperial Government Imports and Specie.	Colonial Government Imports.	Imperial Government Imports.	Specie including Colonial and Imperial Government Importations.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
1897 ...	402,415	37,753	11,176	6,045	457,389
1898 ...	429,933	37,152	94,135	45,129	606,349
1899 ...	567,178	37,443	52,367	32,818	689,806
1900 ...	479,215	37,738	36,199	5,119	558,271
1901 ...	461,892	56,557	27,959	1,878	548,286

The heaviest decreases in 1901 as compared with the previous year are in coals, military stores, and building materials, due to supplies in 1900 being in excess of requirements. The largest increases are on hardware and carriages, caused by railway works, although wearing apparel, cotton seeds, haberdashery, provisions, each show an increase of £3,000 over 1900.

The value of imports compares not unfavourably with past years. In 1899 the value was abnormal owing to reaction of trade after the insurrection, and such excess could not be expected to be permanent. The decrease is largely owing to less importation of coal, valued at £11,556; the increases and decreases on other articles of commerce are merely fluctuations due to no specific cause.

Exports.

The total Exports for the year 1901 show a decrease of £58,461 over the previous year.

The following table shows the trade in the three important exports for the last three years:—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
1899 ...	78,420	4,555	20,058	163.271	546,385	43,730
1900 ...	128,608	7,436	21,517	171,774	274,646	25,741
1901 ...	164 340	9,816	161,749	131,655	131,655	9,203

The following comparative statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the under-mentioned countries during 1901:—

Countries.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
	lbs.	lbs.	£	£
United Kingdom ...	244,316	105,360	22,335	7,174
Germany	30,330	26,295	3,406	2,029
Other Countries ...	274,646	131,655	25,741	9,203

The trade in rubber has declined, owing to the article getting gradually less, and higher prices being offered in the adjoining

Colony of French Guinea. The native also is to blame, as undoubtedly one of the causes of the decline of the production of rubber has been caused by the destructive manner in which the product is collected, the wasteful method by which it was gathered at the sacrifice of the tree's life—a suicidal process, of which it is believed and hoped that the collectors are learning to appreciate the disadvantage. In the adjoining French Colony of Guinea the price is 2*s*. a pound, and only the best rubber is allowed to be exported, *i.e.*, rubber containing not more than one per cent. of dirty matter mixed with it, whereas in this Colony good quality rubber and dirty adulterated rubber are both bought by merchants at prices varying from 1*s*. to 1*s*. 8*d*. per pound.

In palm kernels there was a slight decrease in 1901 over 1900, although the market value remained the same. There is great scope for the extension of the palm oil and kernel trade; it is the difficulty of transport which has to be overcome. Unlike rubber which can be more easily handled, and, owing to its greater value, can better bear the disproportionate expense of the carriage by head—which is the only land transport obtainable in the greater part of the Protectorate—the palm kernel or palm oil cannot reach a shipping port from any distance in the interior before the cost of transport exceeds its value. The completion of the railway will revolutionize the trade in this product, and be the means of bringing to the port the thousands of tons of kernels that at present are allowed to rot.

The trade in kola nuts has declined in comparison with previous years; this is owing to the supply being greater than the demand, with the consequent fall in prices. The following table shows the direction of exports for the last five years:—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1897	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748
1898	117,726	30,948	142,317	290,991
1899	135,635	42,412	157,964	336,011
1900	125,559	59,275	177,637	362,471
1901	87,588	46,228	170,194	304,010

1901 is the first year on record that the export to foreign countries has exceeded that to the United Kingdom and British Colonies. Germany, as usual, is the rival purchaser, and out of the £170,194 exported to foreign countries, £118,070 went to Germany.

The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports Paying Duty.	Imports Admitted Free.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1897	362,663	80,454	400,748	843,865
1898	388,358	218,844	290,991	898,193
1899	525,102	164,500	336,011	1,025,613
1900	422,559	133,018	362,471	918,048
1901	420,253	128,591	304,010	852,854

There are two causes which account for the temporary falling off of the trade—the first is the severe restrictions placed on all produce brought into the Colony from the French sphere, thereby depriving this Colony of the Soudan trade which was a large asset in former years, and, secondly, the disturbances in the Protectorate in 1898 from which the people are only now recovering and beginning their ordinary agricultural, as well as trading, operations.

The railway is bound to be a remarkable factor in the development of the country and to largely increase the present trade; notwithstanding the decrease as shown by the foregoing figures the trade of the Colony is in a healthy state, and in the year under review there has been a decided activity in commercial circles. The condition of the country is distinctly promising.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the comparative statement of total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels. Number	Sailing Vessels. Tonnage.	Steamers. Number.	Steamers. Tonnage.
1897	648	16,002	746	1,068,743
1898	266	10,006	740	1,100,222
1899	325	15,143	736	1,166,605
1900	596	12,966	817	1,277,967
1901	445	17,069	787	1,232,739

Communication between Europe and this Colony is almost exclusively in the hands of Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, of Liverpool, whose steamers convey the mails, but no subsidy is paid by the Government. There is a regular weekly mail to and from England, and the service has been considerably improved during the last year both as regards the regular time kept as well as in the class of steamers, although from the passengers' point of view much still remains to be done in the way of catering. Spanish vessels maintaining communications between Spain and her Colonies of Fernando Po call at Sierra Leone—the existence of a colony of Sierra Leoneans at Fernando Po making the call necessary.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Agriculture is of the most primitive kind, rice, cassada, Indian corn, and ginger are planted. There is no reason why rice should not do exceptionally well in this country; experts describe it as an ideal rice-producing country, yet there is no endeavour made at irrigation, or to cultivate it in any very large quantities. There appears to be a total absence of system in agriculture in this Colony. A piece of bush-land with valuable timber trees is burnt, between the charred stumps the soil is scraped up into heaps, and crops of rice and corn are raised. Crops are grown on the same ground until the land gets exhausted, then the grower moves on and commences the same process on a fresh piece of land.

There is a Botanical Garden in the capital of the Colony under charge of an European curator, and every endeavour is being made by the Government to educate the native in the best methods of agriculture, and to teach him what the economic plants are and their value. Seedlings of plants liable to become valuable in the country are forwarded to the different native chiefs with instructions how to plant them and what their value should be.

At Songo Town, a few miles from the capital of the Colony, the Government have an experimental farm. The experiments with cinnamon, cocoa, and cocoa-nuts have been most successful, and promise well for the future. Over 30,000 seedlings of eucalyptus are doing well. There are several thousands of young plants of landolphia which will be shortly ready for distribution to chiefs who are willing to plant these rubber trees in their districts.

The following are brief notes of the botanical work done with a view of providing the proper cultivation or treatment, for distribution in the Colony and Protectorate, of the chief economic plants grown in the Botanical Gardens.

Cinnamon.

There are twenty trees of *Cinnamon Zelaricum*, some bearing seeds.

Cocoa.

There are 300 young plants of *Theobroma Cocoa.*

Furcrea Cabensis.

A silk grass fibre. There are a large number of these plants, and it will be possible to distribute a supply large enough to make large plantations.

Sansevieria Guineensis.

Bow-string hemp. Three nursery beds full of leaf cuttings were put in last August to demonstrate the manner in which this plant may be propagated extensively. The rooting of these and growth from the base has been a source of wonder and interest to all visitors.

Rubber.

Hevea Braziliensis.—This plant shows the most promising growth in the rubber section. The soil it grows on is poor and gravelly.

Landolphia.—This plant is doing very well, and there is a large stock nearly ready for distribution.

Funtumca elastica.—This valuable tree has not been found in this Colony; seedlings and seed have been obtained from the Gold Coast and Lagos and planted extensively

Owing to the restrictions placed on cattle coming into the Protectorate over the French border, the natives found that the number of their cattle was becoming seriously reduced, so in order to help them and counteract the restrictions, the Government established a cattle station at Songo Town and imported a number of cattle from the Gambia with the idea of breeding and supplying the natives with the beasts they require. Naturally this process must be somewhat long, but the plan has resulted in the restrictions being withdrawn.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the Ordinances passed by the Legislature of the Colony of Sierra Leone during the year 1901 and assented to during the year under review.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1901. "The Petitions of Right Ordinance, 1901."—By the provisions of this Ordinance claims by the Government against private persons or by private persons against the Government are placed on the same footing as between subject and subject, with the difference that the Governor's consent must first be obtained in order to prosecute the claim in the Supreme Court. No Writ of Summons shall be issued, but a Statement of Claim filed and a copy thereof delivered at the office of the Attorney-General is all that is necessary to commence an action. No fee shall be payable on filing or delivering a Statement of Claim. All service of documents shall be made on the Attorney-General, and costs may be awarded in the same manner as in suits between private parties.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1901. "The Whipping of Juveniles Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends the principal Ordinance (No 3 of 1900) by restoring the age of 16 as the limit for the whipping of juvenile offenders.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1901. "The Freetown Municipality Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends the principal Ordinance (No. 6 of 1893) by reducing the amount of licence payable by builders under the principal Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1901. "The Gambia Political Prisoners Detention Ordinance, 1901," authorises the detention in this Colony of six political prisoners from the Colony of the Gambia. The Governor has the legal custody of them and is to place such restrictions as he may deem fit to impose. Writs of Habeas Corpus are suspended.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1901. "The Post Office Savings Bank Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends the principal Ordinance (No. 13 of 1900) by taking away from any trustee under any will or deed the power to make unlimited deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1901. "The Civil Servants' Estates Administration Ordinance, 1901,"—The subject of this Ordinance provides for the administration of the estates of civil servants other than natives dying in the Colony. The Ordinance is drafted *mutatis mutandis*, on the lines of "The Regimental Debts Act, 1893."

Ordinance No. 14 of 1901. "The Summary Review Ordinance, 1901," provides for a speedier and surer mode of appeals from the various Courts of the District Commissioners of the Colony—the majority of persons charged in the above Courts with crimes or offences before the District Commissioner being too ignorant to avail themselves of the right of appeal under the provisions of the Appeal Ordinance (No. 4 of 1877). By this Ordinance a monthly list of criminal cases decided by the District Commissioner is to be forwarded to the Chief Justice, which list shall operate as an appeal on behalf of every convicted person whose name is included therein.

Ordinance No. 16 of 1901. "The Imperial Loans Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends section 5 of the principal Ordinance (No. 7 of 1900), and provides that "the principal money to be borrowed under this Ordinance and the interest thereon are hereby charged upon, and shall be payable out of, the general revenue and assets of the Government of Sierra Leone, with priority over any charges thereon not existing at the time of such borrowing."

Ordinance No. 17 of 1901. "The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1901," exempts tools and machinery imported by miners or prospectors from the payment of Customs duties.

Ordinance No. 21 of 1901. "The Intestate Estates Amendment Ordinance, 1901," provides for the curator or any person cited by the curator, to apply to the Chief Justice by petition or summons for his opinion, advice, or direction pending administration in any question regarding the property of an intestate.

Ordinance No. 22 of 1901. "The West African Frontier Force (Sierra Leone Battalion) Ordinance, 1901," repeals the Frontier Police Ordinance, 1890, and provides—

(1) for the constitution and organisation of a military force to be called the West African Frontier Force.
(2.) Enlistment, discharge and service.
(3.) Discipline.
(4.) General Provisions—
  (*a*) Penalties,
  (*b*) Enforcement of civil contracts,
  (*c*) Wills and distribution of property.

Ordinance No. 23 of 1901. "The Sheriff and Under Sheriffs' Amendment Ordinance, 1901," empowers the Governor to appoint Assistant Under-Sheriffs, the necessity having arisen in consequence of the number of defaulters who have neglected to pay the house tax under the provisions of section 32 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1900.

Ordinance No. 25 of 1901. "The House Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1901," repeals section 6 of the principal Ordinance (No. 11 of 1900) and prescribes that a separate account shall be kept of moneys received and expended in respect of each district and shall not be included in the general revenue of the Colony, and that statements of the accounts shall be published in the "Sierra Leone Royal Gazette," and abstracts of the accounts of both revenue and expenditure shall be laid annually before the Legislative Council.

Ordinance No. 26 of 1901. "The Coroners Further Amendment Ordinance, 1901."—This Ordinance enables the Coroner to summon the Medical Officer of a public institution to give evidence without fee or remuneration as heretofore at an inquest held on the body of any person who died in such institution.

Ordinance No. 28 of 1901. "The Pensions Ordinance, 1901," came into force on the 22nd November last. It regulates the pension, gratuity and other allowances to public officials in the service of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 29 of 1901. "The Human Leopard and Alligator Societies Ordinance, 1901."—This Ordinance was passed for the purpose of repressing certain crimes perpetrated by certain secret societies known as the Human Leopard and Alligator Societies, but is possibly too drastic to be kept permanently on the Statute Book of the Colony, and will expire on the 31st day of December, 1902.

Ordinance No. 30 of 1901. "The Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance, 1901."—This enactment deals with the preservation of certain species of wild animals, birds, and fish from extinction. Under this Ordinance the Governor-in-Council is empowered to make regulations for the due and effectual execution of the Ordinance. Section 4 empowers the Governor to permit the collection of specimens of animals for museums, zoological gardens, or for any other scientific purposes.

Ordinance No. 33 of 1901. "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1902," consolidates, with some amendments, the previous enactments relating to the Protectorate. The Ordinance is divided into six parts:—

(1.) Preliminary which deals with the interpretation of terms and the duties and powers of Assistant District Commissioners.

(2.) Delimitation of the Protectorate, which defines the limits within which the Ordinance shall apply.

(3.) Constitution and jurisdiction of the different Courts.

(4.) Offences against slave-dealing.

(5.) Customs, house tax, store licence and spirit licence.

(6.) Miscellaneous, which deals with recovery and application of taxes, duties, penalties, arms and ammunition, deposition or banishment of chiefs, offences, concessions in the Protectorate, indemnity of the Governor and all officers. Counsel may only appear before the Court of District Commissioner and Native Chiefs, or the Court of Native Chiefs, on behalf of any plaintiff or defendant in a case involving the punishment of death. Counsel may, however, appear in any of the Courts of the Protectorate by leave of the District Commissioner in other cases.

Ordinance No. 35 of 1901. "The Freetown Waterworks Ordinance, 1901."—The Waterworks Ordinance is an Ordinance of 29 sections, dealing with the supply of water for public and private purposes. Section 4 provides for the borrowing of money by the Governor to be refunded by the Water Authority. The expenses incurred in the waterworks Trusts shall not exceed the sum of £31,500. The Ordinance also provides the various rights and duties of the Water Authority. This is a matter purely local in its dealing.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A) PRIMARY.

The system of education in the Colony is wholly denominational. There are no Government schools.

The principal denominations working in the Colony, and in whose hands is its educational welfare, are—the Church of England with 40 schools under its control, the Wesleyan with 20, the United Methodist Free Churches with 9, the Countess of Huntingdon's with 4, the Roman Catholic with 3, and another with 1. The number of schools thus connected is 77; these receive grants-in-aid from the Government, regulated by an Education Ordinance and Rules under it drawn up by a Board of Education.

According to the latest returns (up to December 31, 1901), the number of children on the rolls of the inspected schools is 8,060, and the average attendance 5,764—about 72 per cent. of the roll number.

The enrolment of scholars does not increase with the growth of the population of the Colony, but, on the contrary, decreases, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Native Population of the Colony.	Enrolment of Scholars	Average Attendances.
1870...	42,000	6,000	5,519
1891...	74,611	8,526	5,984
1901...	76,162	8,060	5,764

Thus, in 1891, the enrolment and the average attendance were respectively 11·4 and 8 per cent. of the population, but, in 1901, 10·5 and 7·5 respectively. There is no upper limit to school age. The ordinance simply requires that a scholar shall not be under four years of age, and pupils are often found sixteen years and upwards.

According to the Census of 1891, the number of persons, male and female, from six to fifteen years of age, and therefore well within the ages of children that may be found at school, was 15,123. According to the Census of 1901, the number is 13,373.

Education is not compulsory. This Colony does not yet "bind herself by statute to secure for all the children whom her soil maintains, the rudiments of letters." The aborigines, to whose influx into the Colony from the Protectorate the increase of the population is largely due, have not yet learnt the nature of education to make them care to send their children to school to any large extent.

The following items are shown in comparison with those of last year:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Roll Number.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Average Attendance to Roll Number.	Total Expenditure.	Total Grant-in-Aid.
					£	£
1900 ...	76	7,870	5,661	71·9	4,470	1,393
1901 ...	77	8,060	5,764	71·5	4,565	1,459

From the above table it will be seen that the amount of grant-in-aid received from the Government is about one-third (rather less) of the total cost of the up-keep of the schools. The balance is provided from local sources by the religious bodies to which the schools belong. The amount of Government grant-in-aid is determined by the average attendance and the results of inspection of each school. The amount spent by Government last year for educational purposes was £3,500.

School fees are charged in all the schools, the usual rate of payment being one penny per week for each child, or fourpence per month.

The amount of fees collected in 1900 was £853 12*s.* 4*d.*, and in 1901 £883 5*s.* 2*d.*, being for each year about 3*s.* for each unit of average attendance.

(B) SECONDARY.

The following are the High Schools providing secondary education for boys and girls, all of which belong either to some religious body or to private individuals:—

School.	Religious body with which connected.	Roll Number (December 31st, 1901.)		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Grammar School ...	Church Missionary Society.	163 *148		163 *148
High School	Wesleyan ...	200 *179		200 *179
Educational Institute (Proprietary.)	—	101 *90		101 *90
Annie Walsh Memorial	Church Missionary Society.		130 *115	130 *115
Female Educational Institute.	Wesleyan ...		50 *29	50 *29
St. Joseph's	Roman Catholic		163 *101	163 *101
		464 *417	343 *245	807 *652

* The figures with an asterisk denote the average attendance.

Besides the above, Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated with Durham University, offers facilities to young men desirous of obtaining the B.A. degree and the Licence in Theology. The number of the students, all told, is 40.

TRAINING COLLEGE.

Provision was made in the "Education Rules, 1899," by which any of the religious denominations possessing facilities for doing so, might, subject to the approval of the Government, undertake the theoretical and practical training of teachers of elementary schools. Fourah Bay College, established by the Church Missionary Society is the institution that has, at present, been approved. A capitation grant, depending to a small extent on the result of examination, is given for each student in training, a minimum sum being guaranteed for the up-keep of the department.

Candidates for admission are pupil teachers of three years' standing, or other persons approved by the Board of Education.

The period of training is two years or more. Teachers who succeed at the final certificate examination are entitled to a certificate grant of £15 per annum to be paid by the Government in addition to the salaries received from their denomination. The difficulty attending this arrangement is to get pupils of the elementary schools willing to serve as pupil teachers for three years or more before entering for training. To obviate this difficulty a modification may have to be made by the Board of Education.

(C) TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

There is a Diocesan Technical School, open to pupils of all denominations, receiving an annual grant-in-aid from the Government. It is not largely patronised as yet, though it has been established for nearly eight years, and, in a limited way, has done good work. It is being re-organised with a view to broadening the management and widening the scope of its work.

(D) MOHAMMEDAN.

During the year a Department of Mohammedan Education for the Colony of Sierra Leone and its Protectorate has been established. Four schools are now in operation in Freetown under the new department. In the Colony the Moslems are earnestly availing themselves of these educational facilities specially provided for them. At this stage of the enterprise, however, suitable teachers are the pressing need—a desideratum which, for the present, prevents the extension of the enterprise into the Protectorate. The children are now being taught by Christian teachers, an arrangement which is not regarded as entirely satisfactory. Efforts are being directed to the training of Mohammedan teachers. The Mohammedan question is regarded by the Government as one of the most important in the future of West and Central Africa. If Islam is properly understood, if its youth, inoculated with British civilisation and British ideas, are utilised by British administrators and merchants, it will give to England a wider and more permanent influence upon the millions of the Soudan than can possibly be wielded by any other agency.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A) HOSPITALS.

Colonial Hospital, Freetown.

Year.	Number Refused Admission for want of Room, &c.	In-door Patients.								Out-door Patients.		
		Number Treated.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not Relieved.	Deaths and Percentage to Cases.	In Hospital at End of Year.	Operations.	Deaths—Persons Operated on and Percentage.	Number of Poor Treated.	Casualties Attended to.	Prescriptions Dispensed.
1901...	—	1,265	781	196	117	90	57	311	—	24,649	817	12,139

The above table shows a total of 1,265 intern cases treated during the year; namely 947 males, 318 females, and 114 deaths, giving a death-rate of 90 per 1,000.

In the hospital at the end of the year there were 67 cases remaining.

Many of the cases were admitted in a moribund condition; of the 114 deaths, 44 occurred within 72 hours after admission.

The following table shows the principal diseases treated during the year 1901:—

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Tubercle	24	10	
Malarial Fever	150	6	
Venereal	54	2	
Ulcers	173	3	
Rheumatism	156	4	
Bronchitis	47	7	
Pneumonia...	38	17	

Ulcers, as usual, give the greatest number, 173; rheumatism comes next with a total number of 156; bronchitis and pneumonia furnish 47 and 38 cases, respectively. The fact that pneumonia is a very fatal disease amongst natives is exemplified here. Seventeen deaths have occurred out of a total number of 38 cases treated. Thirty-four major and 277 minor operations were performed without deaths.

The following is the financial statement of the Colonial Medical Department during the year 1901:—

Year.	Daily Number of Beds.	Gross Expenditure for the Year.	Amount of Dues Paid into Treasury.	Actual Expenditure after Deducting Amounts passed to credit of Hospital.	Annual Cost of Each Patient.	Daily Cost of Patient Treated.	Number of Patients Treated.	Average Cost of each Patient per annum after deducting Amounts passed to Credit of Hospital.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	d.		
1901	66	4,724 3 2	1,057 4 7	3,666 18 7	12 18 6¼	8½	1,265	—

The daily average and number of beds occupied during the year is 66.

The following table shows the number of obstetric cases treated during the year 1901:—

Obstetric Ward.

Year.	Number Admitted.	Patients.		Infant.		Pupil Nurses.	
		Number of Deaths.	Number of Operations.	Number of Births.	Number of Still-born.	Entered.	Completed Terms.
1901 ...	38	3	1	10	24	—	—

The above table shows the number of admissions into the Obstetric Ward. The average age of patients admitted is between 14 and 40 years; the majority is about 18 years.

(B) ASYLUMS.

(1) *Lunatic Asylum.*

The following table shows the number of lunatics treated in the hospital at Kissy during the year 1901:—

Year.	Number of Persons under Treatment during the Year.	Number in Asylum on the 1st Jan., 1901.	Average Number Resident.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged.	Recovered.	Dead.
1901.	126	109	115	17	6	6	12

One hundred and twenty-six patients were in the asylum during the year—81 males and 45 females. Of these, 6 recovered sufficiently to be discharged and 12 died; of the latter, 4 were very old and had been in the asylum for an aggregate period of 102 years.

The lunatics are employed in gardening, and there is no doubt that the work in the garden has proved of great benefit in maintaining good health amongst the patients thus employed, by keeping them in useful employment while formerly they were on the sick list frequently. This at present is not the case.

(2) INCURABLE DISEASE HOSPITAL.

The following table shows the total number of patients treated in the Incurable Disease Hospital at Kissy during the year 1901:—

Year.	Remaining in Hospital at the Beginning of the Year.	Admissions.	Discharged and Absconded.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 100.	Remaining at End of Year.	Re-admission of Lepers.
1901.	97	160	118	56	25·68	83	4

Included in the above are 14 persons under treatment for leprosy. In the Colony proper this disease is not common, the majority of the cases having come from the hinterland and from other West African Colonies.

Here the natives adopt methods of isolation, and treat their cases with native remedies.

(C) POOR HOUSES.

(D) REFORMATORIES.

There are neither Poor houses nor reformatories in the Colony. There is decidedly no need for the former and very little necessity for the latter.

(E) SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits for the year amounted to £24,475 6*s.* 5½*d.*; the withdrawals, including interest, to £25,647 13*s.* 9½*d.* The interest taken out of the General Revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounts £1,152 14*s.* 11*d.* As compared with 1900, there is a decrease in deposits, including interest credited, of £159 12*s.* 8½*d.*

The following table shows the amount of deposits at the principal stations in the Colony and Protectorate for the last two years:—

Station.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Freetown ...	23,516 16 8¼	22,627 2 3¼	—	889 14 5
Bonthe ...	1,090 15 9	1,825 14 2	734 18 5	—
Waterloo ...	—	22 10 0	22 10 0	—

The Savings Bank at Waterloo was only opened on November 1.

There was an increase of withdrawals in the year under review as compared with 1900 of £954 0*s.* 3½*d.*

Year.	From Accounts under £5.	From £5 and under £10.	From £10 and under £20.	From £20 and under £50.	From £50 and under £100.	From £100 and under £200.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	599	274	227	250	153	5	1,508
1900 ...	637	246	227	242	144	18	1,514
1901 ...	720	278	246	237	96	26	1,603

The following comparative statement shows the transactions of the Savings Bank for the last five years:—

Year.	Balance.	Deposits.	Interest Due on Deposits.	Total.	Amount Withdrawn.	Interest Paid on Withdrawals.	Total.	Balance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s d	£ s. d.
1897	39,425 18 0	17,625 8 5	934 18 0	57,986 4 5	17,525 1 6½	Included in Amt. Withdrawn.	17,525 1 6½	40,461 2 10½
1898	40,461 2 10½	23,273 1 0	987 5 0	64,721 3 10½	21,417 16 0		21,417 16 0	43,303 12 10½
1899	43,303 12 10½	25,097 9 1½	1,077 8 4	69,478 10 4	21,564 9 4	83 17 1	21,648 6 5	47,830 3 11
1900	47,830 3 11	24,667 19 9½	1,120 1 7½	73,618 5 4	24,595 13 11	97 19 7	24,693 13 6	48,924 11 10
1901	48,924 11 10	24,475 6 5½	1,152 14 11	74,552 13 2½	25,559 11 8½	88 2 1	25,647 13 9	48,904 19 5

The revenue of the Savings Bank from investments for the year 1901 amounted to **£1,650 5*s*. 10*d*.**, and the total expenditure to **£1,417 14*s*. 11*d*.**

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

The authorised strength of the Police Force is three officers and 266 rank and file; this includes 11 Water Police. Of this number, three officers and 169 men are stationed at Freetown, two sergeants and 41 constables in the Sherbro District, and the remainder distributed in the smaller districts. No Police are stationed in the Protectorate.

In Freetown alone the Police have to exercise supervision over an area of 1,894 acres, containing about 370 streets with a population of over 32,000 inhabitants.

The behaviour of the men has been very good, the few offences being trifling breaches of discipline.

(B) CRIMINAL.

The following are the statistics of crime for the last five years:—

—	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
1. Offences against the person.	4	1	5	7	50	2	1	5	1	36
2. Offences against property.	238	195	226	109	39	145	120	133	98	13
3. Other offences ...	154	171	270	98	156	119	131	205	93	116
Total	396	367	501	214	245	266	252	343	192	165
1. Murder, including infanticide, manslaughter, common assault.	74	79	106	53	10	54	61	76	35	6
2. Burglary and house-breaking.	20	9	3	2	—	16	7	3	2	—
3. Arson	1	1	1	—	*1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	95	89	110	55	11	70	69	79	37	6

* Prisoner insane.

(C) PRISONS.

The daily average of prisoners in custody during the year 1901 was 169 as compared with 171 the previous year, and 185 in 1899.

The following table shows the number of convictions for the last five years:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.
1897	441	30	8	479
1898	633	21	5	659
1899	634	29	15	678
1900	414	31	8	453
1901	559	13	5	677

There was one escape during the year, and the man was recaptured, as compared with four in 1900.

The behaviour of the prisoners is reported good; whereas in 1899 there were 485 cases of breaches of prison discipline dealt with, in 1901 the number has been reduced to 127. There has also been a great reduction in the number of floggings, as the following table proves:—

Year.	Number of Floggings.
1897	20
1898	9
1899	3
1900	1
1901	Nil.

The two principal offences are disobedience of orders and having prohibited articles on their person, such as snuff and tobacco.

The health of the prisoners is excellent; in 1899 the death-rate was 15, whereas in 1900 and 1901 it was 7 for each year.

The outside prison gangs are used for labour in connection with the Public Works, and collecting stones from the quarries; those prisoners who are detained within the walls are employed at tailoring, shoe-making, basket-making, and carpentering.

The prison is not self-supporting, although by the prison labour which is credited the cost is considerably reduced. The following table gives the expenditure and the earnings for the last five years:—

Year.	Expenditure.	Earnings	Deficit.
	£	£	£
1897...	3,355	1,440	1,915
1898...	4,403	1,845	2,558
1899...	4,513	2,223	2,290
1900...	3,550	1 739	1,811
1901...	3 649	1,756	1,893

It is to be regretted that the Association Ward system is in force; and, unfortunately, owing to the large demands on the public finances it is impossible at present to undertake the work of erecting a new building which would have the advantage of the solitary cell system.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A) Population.

The Census was taken during the year under review, and the population of the whole Colony consisted of 41,856 males and 34,799 females, making a grand total of 76,655 persons; this shows an increase of 1,820 from the date of the Census Return of 1891.

The following table, showing the general population of the Colony with sexes and ages taken from the Census return, will be of interest:—

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	521	533	1,054
1 "	382	490	872
2 years	474	380	854
3 "	698	653	1,351
4 "	635	539	1,174
5 "	651	794	1,445
From 6 to 10 years ...	2,979	3,016	5,995
" 11 " 15 " ...	3,998	3,380	7,378
" 16 " 20 " ...	4,440	3,734	8,174
" 21 " 25 " ...	5,090	3,770	8,860
" 26 " 30 " ...	6,073	4,096	10,169
" 31 " 35 " ...	3,116	2,151	5,267
" 36 " 40 " ...	4,510	3,157	7,667
" 41 " 45 " ...	1,966	1,508	3,474
" 46 " 50 " ...	2,248	2,017	4,265
" 51 " 55 " ...	955	1,039	1,994
" 56 " 60 " ...	1,147	1,229	2,376
" 61 " 65 " ...	478	578	1,056
" 66 " 70 " ...	402	583	985
" 71 " 75 " ...	235	229	464
" 76 " 80 " ...	220	316	536
" 81 " 85 " ...	147	212	359
" 86 " 90 " ...	90	173	263
" 91 " 95 " ...	76	39	115
" 96 " 100 " ...	34	50	84
Upwards of 100 " ...	6	11	17
Ages not stated	285	122	407
Total	41,856	34,799	76,655

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The number of deaths registered was 1,851 (1,042 males and 809 females); this gives a death-rate of 23·46 per thousand. The number of births was 1,334, a rate of 17·67.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Births in Excess.	Deaths in Excess.
1897	1,645	1,734	—	91
1898	1,859	1,788	174	—
1899	1,494	1,768	—	274
1900	1,342	1,716	—	374
1901	1,334	1,851	—	517

The infantile mortality is exceptionally high. In Freetown alone it is as high as 578·8 per thousand births. A large number of these deaths occur in connection with labour, and the Government are now erecting a Maternity Ward in the Colonial Hospital, and steps are being taken to establish a Maternity Home with the idea of training and registering midwives. In fact every endeavour will be undertaken by the Government to put a stop to the present heavy loss of life at birth.

The following comparative statement gives the infantile mortality for the last five years in Freetown:—

Year.	Total Deaths under one Year.	Deaths under one Week.	Deaths within 24 Hours.	Total Births.	Still-births.	Infantile Mortality.
1897	235	104	52	587	37	400·8
1898	251	118	69	668	40	375·7
1899	242	94	58	565	26	428·3
1900	225	82	45	462	27	487·01
1901	235	91	48	417	24	575·8

The child mortality, *i.e.*, deaths up to the age of five years in Freetown is high as will be seen from the following comparative table:—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Deaths below five Years.	Percentage of Deaths below five Years to Total Deaths.	Death rate per 1000 living under five Years.
1897	871	296	33·86	114·7
1898	869	310	35·67	120·20
1899	923	296	32·67	114·7
1900	895	295	32·96	114·38
1901	959	307	32·01	119·03

Of the European death-rate it is very difficult to give accurate information so far as the Protectorate is concerned, as many come and go after very short periods of residence, so that it would be impossible to estimate the European population.

As regards Freetown itself, the approximate population of Europeans could be put at 350, and this number would not be excessive. The deaths among Europeans in 1901 amounted to 10 as compared with 19 in the previous year.

The city and Colony during the year have been comparatively free from small-pox, the small number of cases that did occur were introduced from the Protectorate, or from steamers coming from the coast. Twenty-two patients were admitted to the Small-pox Hospital, and during the year eleven deaths occurred.

(C) SANITATION.

The sanitary work of the city of Freetown has been done by the Sanitary Department of the City Council under the supervision of Dr. Prout, the principal Medical Officer, and I cannot do better than quote from his annual report:—

"The method of sewage disposal in use in the town is the abominable cesspit system. The contamination of the subsoil which results is most prejudicial to health, and until the matter is seriously grappled with we cannot expect to see any marked improvement in the death-rate. The question of the surface drainage of the town is now, I am glad to say, being systematically taken in hand, and it is proposed to overtake the drainage of a certain part of the town each year until all is completed. This, by preventing collections of water and thus diminishing the number of breeding places of mosquitoes, will do much eventually to reduce the prevalence of malaria, and consequently to improve the death-rate, especially among children. In the early part of the year an expedition organised by the Liverpool Tropical School of Medicine, under the superintendence of Major Ross, assisted by Dr. Logan Taylor, arrived in Freetown with the object of making a systematic attempt to reduce the number of mosquitoes in the city. One of the most unhealthy parts of the town, namely Grassfields, was selected for the experiment, and the methods employed were mainly three. First, the clearing out of the gutters along the streets, and the construction of temporary channels where none existed previously, so as to allow of the surface water being rapidly carried off; the filling up of depressions with stones, earth and cement, so as to prevent the formation of mosquito breeding puddles; and third, the removal of all loose receptacles such as broken bottles, old tins, etc., in which collections of water might lodge and larvæ breed. The work has been energetically carried out by Dr. Logan Taylor, and no doubt with benefit to the cleanliness of the town. It is too soon to speak as to the results, and rash conclusions one way or the other at this stage are to be deprecated, for after such a short period it is naturally impossible to expect that there can be any marked effect on the health of the town. The work is however proceeding on the right lines, and with the system of permanent surface drainage which the Governor has inaugurated, we have every right to expect at no distant date a diminution in the prevalence of malaria. The Colony owes a great debt of gratitude to Major Ross for the interest he has taken in the work and the energy he has thrown into it."

(D) CLIMATE.

No part of West Africa up to the present time has earned the right to be termed a health resort, and Sierra Leone is no exception. At the same time there are indications that the climate is not looked upon as being quite as bad as it was in former years; this no doubt is attributable to the improvement of living, better sanitation, and precautionary measures now taken which formerly were ignored. So long as the mercantile community and Colonial officials continue to live in the city of Freetown, surrounded by native houses and insanitary conditions, there will not be that increased improvement in the health of the Europeans which should be expected. It is hard to conceive, considering the natural advantages Sierra Leone possesses in having high hills from 800 to 1,500 feet all round, why the short-sighted policy of residing in the flat and low-lying part of the town has been allowed to continue. The military have lost no time in grasping the advantages of hill residences, and the consequence is that the best sites have been acquired by the War Office for the erection of barracks, with the result that far better health is enjoyed by the military than those less fortunate Europeans residing in the low-lying city of Freetown. Given good residences on high land with the usual precautions as to the mode of living, there is no reason why the health of the Europeans in this Colony should not be as good as in some other Colonies off the West Coast of Africa.

RAINFALL.

The following table gives the rainfall of Sierra Leone for the last five years:—

Year.	Inches.
1897	164·31
1898	144·64
1899	146·63
1900	175·43
1901	198·82

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) POSTAL.

The following comparative table shows the working of the Postal Department during the years 1900 and 1901:—

Year.	Number of Letters Posted.	Number of Registered Articles dealt with.	Amount of Money Order Transactions with Great Britain.	Amount of Money Order Transactions with other British Colonies.	Amount of Money Order Transactions with Foreign Countries.	Total Amount of Money Order Transactions.	Number of Parcels.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1900	520,643	27,370	18,971 16 5	17,433 17 0	1,284 0 4	37,689 13 9	10,144
1901	551,017	39,505	17,541 14 9	15,914 16 8	1,529 1 0	34,985 12 5	10,875
Increase	30,374	12,135	—	—	245 0 8	—	731
Decrease	—	—	1,430 1 8	1,519 0 4	—	2,704 1 4	—

The following Postal articles and parcels passed between the Colony and the United Kingdom during the year under review:—

Description.	Received.	Despatched.	Total.
Letters	73,063	80,103	153,166
Postcards	2,928	8,109	11,037
Newspapers and Book packets ...	93,836	9,000	102,836
Parcels	5,411	1,358	6,769
Total	175,238	98,570	273,808

The following is a return of what passed between the Colony and other West African Colonies and foreign countries:—

Description.	Received.	Despatched.	Total.
Letters	70,077	63,460	133,537
Postcards	1,230	760	990
Newspapers and Book-packets.	8,283	14,589	22,872
Parcels	1,561	1,033	2,594
Total	81,151	79,842	160,993

Of the 6,972 parcels received, 340 were insured; and of the 2,391 despatched, 190 were insured.

The total value of the parcels dealt with during the year amounted to £11,623 17*s.* 4*d.*

The total Postal revenue for the year 1901 was £6,983 13*s.* 11*d.* as compared with £5,937 13*s.* 8*d.* in 1900. The total expenditure in 1901 was £5,991 5*s.* 6*d.*, and that of the previous year £5,551 9*s.* 11*d.*

MONEY ORDERS.

10,107 money orders of a total value of £40,640 16*s.* 3*d.* were dealt with during the year.

Of these, 8,029, valued at £32,209 13*s.* 2*d.*, were issued within the Colony, and 2,078, valued at £8,431 3*s.* 1*d.*, were received from beyond the limits of the Colony.

(B) TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

The only telegraph line in the Colony is that which follows the railway. On 31st December, 1901, there were 76 miles of telegraph line laid and being worked, and there were 13 stations. During the year 233 Government messages were sent, and 7,222 by the general public. The charge is 6*d.* for twelve words, and ½*d.* for every additional word; the revenue earned for the year amounted to £249. The telephone system in the Colony is very small and only connects the different military offices around Freetown and is under the control of the War Department, and, with the exception of the connection between Government House and the Secretariat, is only used by the military; none of the other Government offices or mercantile firms derive any benefit from it.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Sierra Leone is an important coaling station, and possesses an excellent anchorage. It is strongly fortified, and has a garrison of 48 European officers and 2,121 non-commissioned officers and men. In this number is included a European battery of Garrison Artillery, the Native Artillery, Native Engineers, one battalion of the West India Regiment, the West African Regiment and different units such as Royal Engineers, Medical Staff, and Army Service Corps, etc. The West African Regiment is recruited from the tribes in the Colony and Protectorate, but officered by Europeans seconded from different regiments of the Regular Army and Militia. The cost of the above force is paid from Imperial funds, although an allowance is granted by the Colonial Government in compensation of Customs duties, which amounted in 1901 to £1,455.

There are no Militia or Volunteers in the Colony.

There is a battalion of the West African Frontier Force stationed in the Colony; this is a purely Colonial military force, and all expenses connected with it are paid by the Colony; the total cost during the year under review amounted to £23,707. The strength of the battalion at the close of the year was 630 of all ranks. The men are recruited from the Protectorate and make excellent fighting material. The officers are seconded for service from the Regular Army and Militia. The force is stationed in the different districts of the Protectorate, and their presence is not only a guarantee of security to the inhabitants but also a great safeguard against lawlessness, oppression, and the traffic in slaves.

During the year Brigadier-General Kemball, D.S.O., R.A., was appointed Inspector-General West African Frontier Force. This is a new appointment and an excellent one, which cannot but have most beneficial results on the efficiency of the force.

X.—RAILWAY.

(A) Open Lines.

On 31st December, 1901, 75¾ miles of railway were open for traffic, as compared with 55¼ miles in 1900.

The following table will show the improvement in the traffic during the second year of the opening of the railway: —

Year.	Passengers.	Goods.	Construction materials.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1900	7,376	705	2,263	10,345
1901	10,015	1,507	6,235	17,757

There were 13 stations opened during 1901 as compared with 11 in the previous year. The cost of working the open lines in 1900 amounted to £14,284, and in 1901 to £18,518. The working of the line is progressing favourably, and there is every indication that the people are already beginning to feel its benefit, and that it will be the means of bringing considerably more produce to the port of the Colony than was possible previously.

(B) Construction.

The construction of the extension of the Sierra Leone railway has proceeded steadily through the year. On the 1st of January, 1901, the track was laid 4¼ miles beyond Rotifunk, and on the 31st of December, 1901, it reached 44 miles. The building of this 39¾ miles of railway necessitated the moving of 320,000 cubic yards of earth, and the getting and spreading of 27,000 cubic yards of ballast, the bridging over of rivers and swamps with 18 timber bridges of a total length of 1,450 feet, and the construction of 78 culverts formed with steel or earthenware pipes, varying in diameter from 18 inches to 4 feet. Station buildings, consisting of dwelling-houses and offices, have been erected at Boia and Moyamba. A single telegraph wire attached to iron poles has been put up to the forty-ninth mile. The total weight of construction material received at Rotifunk from Freetown was 6,766 tons, and, of this, 4,963 tons were forwarded on to railhead. The transport of the latter entailed a total train mileage of 17,449 miles during the year. The scarcity of labour greatly interfered with the progress of the work during the months of February, March, April, May, and June. During the last four months of the year the supply of labour was greater than the requirements. The average number of labourers employed daily during each month was as follows:—

Month.	No.	Month.	No.
January	1,256	July	2,652
February	866	August	2,939
March	1,450	September	3,542
April	2,290	October	3,878
May	1,336	November	4,865
June	1,284	December	5,205

(C) PROPOSED.

A survey for a mountain railway has been made during the year with the idea of running a railway from Freetown to Wilberforce, a distance of five miles. The site of the terminus, which was chosen by Sir Charles King-Harman, is at a height of 900 feet. It is in every way the most suitable site for residences, the altitude should prove conducive to health and it commands most lovely views. It is stated to be removed from the zone of the anopheles, water is easily obtainable, and it has the further greater advantage of being within easy reach of the city of Freetown.

XI.—CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes have taken place during the year in the Establishment:—

Mr. Stallard, the Chief Justice, has retired on pension, and Mr. P. Crampton Smyly, the Attorney-General of the Colony, has been appointed to succeed him. Colonel J. C. Gore, the Colonial Secretary, has been transferred to Cyprus as Receiver-General, and Mr. G. B. Haddon-Smith, Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast Colony, appointed to succeed him. Mr. A. Hudson, Solicitor-General, has been promoted to the post of Attorney-General. Major J. E. C. Blakeney has been appointed Major Commanding, Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year the Governor of the Colony (Sir Charles King-Harman) made tours of inspection throughout the Colony and Protectorate. He found large tracts of land untouched, and reports that the whole country from an agricultural point of view is capable of great development. In fact, the condition of the people in one part of the Colony is very aptly described by him as follows:—"The inhabitants appeared to be sufficiently provided with the necessaries of life to allow them, for the most part, to loll in their hammocks all day, and to dance and sing all night. I saw absolutely no sign of either poverty or discontent"; and that is the satisfactory condition throughout the Protectorate.

The Governor was received everywhere most cordially, and the various chiefs expressed "a unanimous and unbounded satisfaction both with the protection and security which they and their people now enjoy, and also with the manner in which the administration of the districts was carried out by Government officers."

The fear that existed with so many of the commercial community of this Colony as to the impossibility of collecting the house tax except at the point of the bayonet, or that the collection of it meant ruin to the trade of the Colony, has been dispelled. There is no difficulty in collecting the tax, the object and necessity of it are fully recognised by the people; and the insignificance of the amount to be paid in comparison with the benefits and improvements enjoyed are admitted on all sides. Where the trouble occasionally does arise is not in the amount demanded or collected by Government servants, but owing to the unscrupulous actions of some of the sub-chiefs who extort large sums from the unsophisticated native on the false statements that they are accredited collectors for the Government.

The tribes have now had the opportunity of rebuilding their towns and villages and re-planting their farms, which were destroyed and neglected owing to the rebellion. The people have regained confidence and the whole country is at rest, and there is every indication that there will be augmentation of revenue from an increase of imports. In every direction there are signs that the wealth of the country is growing and that there is a steady and normal progress. Means of transport, by means of the railway and better roads, have been improved and extended. Slavery is virtually defunct. It must not be lost sight of that the Protectorate has only within the last few years been rescued from a barbarous rule, with its consequences, stagnation and want of population.

Emigration is discouraged by the Government. The Protectorate needs population greatly, and every endeavour must be made to prevent those who should work the soil and help to develop their own country from leaving it to seek work in the gold mines where, perhaps, the temporary high wages are the temptation.

During the first month of the year under review Sierra Leone, in common with other parts of the Empire, received the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, a Sovereign whose life was the pride of her subjects and the honour of mankind. In no part of the great Empire was the painful news received with more genuine grief than by the loyal subjects of this Colony and Protectorate.

G. B. Haddon-Smith,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sierra Leone,
15th July, 1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 389.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 361.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July 1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados	1901–1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica...	"
374	Leeward Islands	"
375	Gold Coast	1901
376	Grenada	"
377	Northern Nigeria	"
378	British Guiana	1901–1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901-1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901–1902
383	Bermuda...	1902
384	St. Lucia...	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar	"
388	Wei-Hai-Wei	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..., ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 389.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1901 *see* No. 361.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. A. KING-HARMAN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Fort Thornton,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
16th June, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information the Report on the Sierra Leone Blue Book for 1902, which has been written by Mr. Evelyn the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

C. A. KING-HARMAN,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE, 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue for the year amounted to £205,764 12*s.* 2*d.*, being £27,339 12*s.* 2*d.* more than the estimated Revenue. It exceeded by £13,626 9*s.* 1*d.* that for 1901.

The net Revenue for the five years ended 31st December, 1902, stood as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1898	117,682
1899	168,382
1900	169,370
1901	192,138
1902	205,765

The increase in the Revenue for 1902 over that for 1901 has occurred chiefly under the heads of Customs, Licences, and Internal Revenue, and Post Office and Savings Bank. As compared with 1901, there was a decrease in the receipts under the heads of Port, Harbour, and Light dues, Fees of Court or Office, &c. Under head Miscellaneous there was a falling off of £2,454, which is due to the transfer in 1901 of the value of railway stores charged as expenditure in previous years to a special railway account and credited to Revenue in that year. Under head Protectorate there is an apparent falling off of £604. As against this seeming decrease there was a sum of £2,649 received during 1902 which remains on "deposit" pending further information from the Chiefs as to the particular towns from which this amount has been collected. The collections, therefore, from the Protectorate actually exceeded those for 1901 by £2,000.

The following comparative statement of Revenue for 1902 furnishes in detail the receipts for the year as compared with those for the previous year: —

Comparative Statement of Revenue for 1901–1902.

Heads of Revenue.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	104,935	121,918	16,983	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	3,128	2,824	—	304
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	4,957	6,220	1,263	—
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specified Services, &c.	6,062	4,725	—	1,337
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	6,984	7,574	590	—
Rents on Government Property ...	163	383	220	—
Interest	20	206	186	—
Miscellaneous receipts	6,148	3,694	—	2,454
Sierra Leone Railway	21,394	20,441	—	953
Land Sales	—	37	37	—
Protectorate	38,347	37,743	—	604
Total	192,138	205,765	19,279	5,652

The increased Revenue as shown in the foregoing statement, and which has occurred chiefly under the head of Customs, may be attributed to the rapid development and extension of trade in the Protectorate, and to the increased purchasing power of the people consequent on the large expenditure by the Colonial and Imperial Governments on the railway and military works.

The Expenditure during the year amounted to £184,939 11*s.* 8*d.*, being £7,057 11*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the Estimates, but £20,825 0*s.* 6*d.* less than the actual Revenue. The excess of £7,057 11*s.* 8*d.* over the estimated Expenditure occurred under the following heads:—Pensions, Miscellaneous, under which head is included the expenses incurred in connection with the Coronation festivities, Protectorate, Public Works Extraordinary, and Colonial Steamer (special Expenditure). The excess under Public Works Extraordinary is chiefly due to expenditure on drainage and sanitation works carried out during the year in one of the most malarial stricken districts of Freetown; and that under Colonial Steamer (special expenditure) represents the cost of a new launch to replace the "Countess of Derby." This latter excess, amounting to £6,623, for which there was no provision in the Estimate, is, however, more than counterbalanced by the transfer to Surplus Funds of the Colony of the investments, amounting to over £10,000, on account of the Steamer Depreciation Fund. The following is a comparative statement of expenditure under the various heads for the two years 1901 and 1902:—

Comparative Statement of Expenditure for 1901–1902.

Heads of Expenditure.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	12,832	15,896	3,064	—
Pensions	4,837	5,106	269	—
Governor and Legislation	4,327	3,785	—	542
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	2,975	2,905	—	70
Provincial Administration	1,623	1,738	115	—
Treasury	2,020	1,925	—	95
Customs Department	8,685	8,834	149	—
Audit Department	1,302	1,889	587	—
Port and Marine Department ...	1,008	1,064	56	—
Legal Department	5,050	4,989	—	61
Civil Police	8,838	8,500	—	338
Prisons	3,983	4,511	528	—
Medical Department	4,730	4,943	213	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,504	4,362	—	1,142
Nursing Home	740	829	89	—
Education	3,247	3,650	403	—
Transport	1,236	1,341	105	—
Miscellaneous Services	8,552	10,259	1,707	—
Post Office	7,112	5,551	—	1,561
Colonial Steamer	1,540	1,038	—	502
" " Special Expenditure	—	6,623	6,623	—
Botanical and Agricultural Department.	1,443	1,494	51	—
Sierra Leone Railway	20,315	21,227	912	—
Public Works Department	2,586	2,706	120	—
" " Recurrent	5,071	5,078	7	—
" " Extraordinary... ...	4,417	4,477	60	—
Frontier	23,707	22,485	—	1,222
Protectorate	25,777	27,735	1,958	—
Total	173,457	184,940	17,016	5,533

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND PUBLIC DEBTS.

At the close of 1902 there was an excess of Assets over Liabilities of £53,929 8*s.* 11*d.* This is exclusive of the value of railway, open lines, stores on hand on that date amounting to £5,758 6*s.* 6*d.*, but includes temporary advances, amounting to £88,117 6*s.* 8*d.* made from General Revenue on account of loan expenditure pending the issue of Stock authorised under Ordinance No. 18 of 1902.

There is at the present time no Public Debt, but at 31st December, 1902, advances amounting to £554,682 13*s.* 11*d.* had been obtained through the Crown Agents to meet expenditure on railway construction and waterworks in anticipation of the loan of £1,338,000 to be raised under the provisions of the Ordinance referred to above. In addition to this the Colony is indebted to the Imperial Government in the sum of £34,765 19*s.* 4*d.*, being the balance due on account of the military operations in the Protectorate in 1898-99, and which is repayable in annual instalments of £5,000.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipality of Freetown, the only one in the Colony, was created in 1893 by an Ordinance, No. 6 of 1893, passed in February of that year. It was not, however, until August, 1895, that the City Council came into existence and the first Mayor elected. The City is, for the purposes of the Ordinance, divided into three wards, the Eastern, Central, and Western. The City Councillors number 15, of whom 12 are elected, and three are nominated by the Government. Of the elected members, six are returned by the Central Ward, and three each by the Eastern and Western Wards. The nominated members consist of the Principal Medical Officer, the Director of Public Works, and one other.

The Municipal Revenues are derived from market dues, cemetery fees, house rates, trade licences, shop, store, and hawkers' licences, licences on vehicles, including "hammocks" and sedan chairs, and licences taken out by professional men for the practice of their profession. The Municipality also receives from the Government an annual grant of £1,800 per annum in lieu of the proceeds of certain licences which form part of General Revenue. The rate on house property in Freetown is 5 per cent. on the assessed annual rental value.

The Revenue and Expenditure, including the Grant-in-Aid, for the five years ended 31st October, 1902, is as under:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1898	4,429	4,917
1899	5,108	5,064
1900	4,440	4,525
1901	5,193	4,902
1902	5,192	5,418
Total	24,362	24,826

showing a net deficit for the five years of £464 which has been met out of a balance of £140 to credit of the City Fund prior to 1897, by a surplus of £400 in 1897, and by a loan of £300 raised in 1899, which is included in the Revenue of that year.

ADVISORY BOARDS.

Under the House Tax Ordinance, the Colony is, for the purposes of the tax, divided into districts. The tax collected is carried to the credit of the District Fund to which it relates, and is expended in works of improvement in such district. The control of these funds is by the Ordinance vested in the Governor-in-Council, who decides on the various works to be carried out. Each district is represented by a Local Advisory

Board, chosen from among the most influential men of the district and appointed by the Governor. It is the duty of these Boards to represent to the Governor the works which they consider should be undertaken. All questions affecting expenditure from the funds are also referred to them for consideration.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of Imports for 1902 amounted to £625,935, being an increase of £77,649 over the figures for the previous year. With the exception of the year 1899, which was an abnormal one owing to the large importations that were rendered necessary in order to replace the goods that were destroyed during the rebellion in 1898-99, the Imports in 1902 largely exceed those of any year since 1897.

Below is a comparative return of the Imports for the years 1901 and 1902:—

Articles.	Value.	
	1901.	1902.
	£	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	154,558	181,977
2 Raw materials—		
Metal and others	1,059	1,128
3. Manufactured articles—		
(*a*) Textile	176,739	206,395
(*b*) Metal	57,686	64,418
(*c*) Other	156,342	141,872
4. Coin and Bullion	1,902	30,145
Total	548,286	625,935

The value of goods imported by the Imperial and Colonial Governments in 1901 and 1902, and which are included in the above table, amounted to £84,516 and £72,189 respectively.

The increase in the Imports may be taken as an indication of a general improvement in the trade of the Colony and Protectorate.

Of the value of Imports in 1902, 72·8 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, 23·7 per cent. from Foreign Countries, and 3·5 per cent. from other British West African Colonies, as compared with 75, 23, and 2 per cent., respectively, in 1901.

The following is a return of the value of the Imports, including coin and bullion, for the five years 1898-1902:—

Imports for five years, 1898–1902.

Year.	Amount.
	£
1898	606,349
1899	639,806
1900	558,271
1901	548,286
1902	625,286

Exports.

The total value of the Exports for the year 1902, including specie, amounted to £403,518, being the highest recorded since 1897. As compared with that for 1901 (£304,010), it shows an increase of £99,508. If from the respective values of Exports for the two years 1901 and 1902 the value of specie and of products other than those of West Africa be deducted the following figures are obtained:—

1901.	1902.	Increase.
£ 256,284.	£ 316,966	£ 60,682.

It is very pleasing to record this large increase in the value of the products of the Colony exported during the year, and it is one of the surest signs of the revival which has taken place in the trade of the Colony during the year under review.

The following comparative table of the principal articles exported and their value for the years 1901 and 1902 is interesting, as showing the marked increase which has taken place in almost every item:—

Article.	Value.	
	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Palm Kernels	161,749	201,357
Palm Oil	9,816	13,544
Cola nuts	51,805	60,517
Rubber	9,203	8,192
Ivory	617	533
Other West African Produce	23,094	32,823
Total	256,284	316,966
Specie	38,577	77,341
Exports other than West African Produce ...	9,149	9,211
Grand Total	304,010	403,518

Of the total for 1902, 30·5 per cent. represents the value of exports to the United Kingdom, 51·2 per cent. that to Foreign Countries, and 18·3 per cent. that to British West African Colonies. The percentage for 1901 was 28·8 per cent. to the United Kingdom, 56 per cent. to Foreign Countries, and 15·2 per cent. to other British West African Colonies. It will be seen from this that the value of exports to the United Kingdom and other British West African Colonies in 1902 has increased, while that to Foreign Countries has fallen off. Of the Foreign Countries, Germany is by far our best customer, and the bulk of the palm kernels and palm oil exported goes to that country.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1902 amounted to 1,526, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,466,884 tons, showing an increase over the figures for 1901 of 294 vessels and a tonnage of 217,076 tons. Of the number of vessels entered and cleared in 1902, 888 were steamers, representing a tonnage of 1,453,572 tons.

The following comparative table gives the total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Number	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1898 ...	266	10,006	740	1,100,222	1,006	1,110,228
1899 ...	325	15,143	736	1,166,605	1,061	1,181,748
1900 ...	596	12,966	817	1,277,967	1,413	1,290,933
1901 ...	445	17,069	787	1,232,739	1,232	1,249,808
1902 ...	638	14,416	888	1,453,572	1,526	1,467,988

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, in its generally accepted sense, is not carried out in the Colony or Protectorate. Generally speaking, it may be said to be confined to the growing of such crops as rice, cassada, and maize, and those only in quantities sufficient to meet the immediate needs of the people. Of the three staple articles mentioned above, rice is by far the most largely cultivated, and about three-fourths of the quantity consumed is grown locally. The quality is by general consent admitted to be far superior to the imported article. The country is admirably suited to the cultivation of this cereal, and there is no reason, so far as the land is concerned, why all the rice required should not be home grown and a large export trade established between Sierra Leone and other West African Colonies. The soil is fertile, and there are millions of acres of land that might be made productive, but the natural indolence of the people is an almost insuperable bar to the extension of agriculture, and as long as their easily satisfied wants are met under present conditions, it will be difficult to overcome their inertness and to persuade them to take up agriculture on a larger and lucrative scale.

Small quantities of sweet potatoes and yams are also grown, and in some parts ginger is cultivated to a limited extent.

Efforts are being made to encourage and extend the cultivation of cotton, and an American cotton expert has been sent out, under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association, for this purpose. At present a certain amount of cotton is cultivated in those parts of the Protectorate where the manufacture of native cloth is carried on. The plant is indigenous to the country and its cultivation is of the most primitive kind, the seed being sown broadcast over the land on which cassada or rice has been planted. The native plant is perennial and the quality and staple are good. A sample which was recently sent to England was quoted at 5¾*d.* per lb. The cotton expert is of opinion that much might be done to improve both the quality and the staple by proper methods of cultivation and by a careful selection of seed. He is now engaged in the Sherbro district in carrying out experiments with a view of determining this. Seeds of the American and Egyptian cotton have been distrubuted amongst the Chiefs in the Protectorate, but the results have not been encouraging. Failure also attended the experiments carried out by the Curator of the Botanic Station in the growing of the American and Egyptian cotton at the Songe Town Station. So far as is at present known the principal cause of failure would appear to be attributable to the excessive damp. The seeds were planted at the same time as the native cotton, viz., in the months of May and June, and the plants began to bear long before the end of the rains. The pods suffered from the wet, and the majority of them rotted and dropped off the plants. It is possible that a later sowing might have been attended with better results, but this can only be known when the experiments which are now being carried out are completed.

At present the attention of the cotton expert is confined to the district of Sherbro. Every encouragement is being given to the people to induce them to take up the industry, and the Government has agreed to accept cotton in lieu of cash in the payment of the house tax. Consignments of cotton will also be carried by rail free of freight.

BOTANIC STATION.

This may be divided into two heads, the Botanic Gardens in Freetown and the Station at Songo Town. At the former place the work carried out consists chiefly in the propagation of ornamental and flowering plants. There is also a nursery attached to this garden for the raising of seedlings of useful and economic plants for distribution or for planting out at the Songo Town Station. The gardens form a pleasant and favourite place of resort for the people of Freetown.

The Songo Town Station is devoted entirely to the cultivation of economic plants and for carrying out experiments for the improvement of the quality of native vegetables and fruit. Much good work has been done during the year, and there are now large numbers of the more useful economic plants ready for distribution. Among these may be mentioned limes, rubber (Funtumia Elastica and Landolphia Owariensis), kola, cinnamon, cocoa (Trinidad), logwood, and divi divi. There is a large quantity of rubber plants on hand, and endeavours are now being made to induce the Chiefs to take up the cultivation of this plant. About 20,000 plants of the Landolphia Owariensis have also been planted out at the Station for stock.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed through the Legislative Council during the year 1902. Of those introducing new legislation, the most important are:—

The Concessions Ordinance (No. 8 of 1902) introduced by instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the lines of the Gold Coast Ordinance, establishing a Concessions Court, presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court. The Ordinance provides that every concession must be registered and must receive a Certificate of Validity from the Court before it can be valid. A stamp duty of £5 on prospecting licences and £30 on mining licences is imposed as well as a duty of 5 per cent. on profits.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1902, dealing with Mahommedan education, which is brought partially under the control of the Education Board, and included among the objects of the Education Grants.

The Crown Lands Conservancy Ordinance (No. 5 of 1902) under which provision is made for preventing unauthorised "squatting" and cutting of wood on Crown lands, and for introducing restricted tenure at a nominal rent.

The Trustee Investment Ordinance (No. 10 of 1902) making Sierra Leone Government Stock available as a Trustee Investment under the Colonial Stock Act, 1900.

The Public Loan Ordinance (No. 18 of 1902) which provides for the raising of a loan of £1,338,000 for the following purposes:—Railway construction from Freetown to the Frontier,

£1,083,427; Mountain railway which will connect Freetown with the bungalows which it is proposed to erect on the hills outside the town, £30,960; Freetown Wharf, £38,953; Freetown Waterworks, £31,500 and £153,160, expenses of issue.

Ordinance No. 14 of 1902 providing for the establishment of a Fire Brigade for the City of Freetown; and

Ordinance No. 7 of 1902, under which a uniform procedure in the granting of pardons is provided.

Three Consolidation Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the Customs Ordinance (No. 12 of 1902) containing 258 sections is the most extensive hitherto undertaken. The other Consolidation Ordinances are those dealing with Lunacy (No. 6 of 1902), and with Light and Harbour Dues (No. 11 of 1902). By the enactment of these three Ordinances no less than 30 Ordinances, spread over a period of more than half a century, were removed from the Statute Book.

Amending Ordinances were passed to improve the working of the House Tax Ordinance, 1900 (Defaulters), and the Frontier Ordinance, 1901 (Gratuities and Pensions) and slight amendments were made to the Explosives Ordinance, 1881, and to the Dogs Ordinance, 1900. The Railway Ordinance, 1898, was also amended to facilitate the construction of the Mountain Railway over streets and public places.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY.

The examination of the Primary Schools has only just been completed, and consequently the report of the Inspector for the year 1902 is not yet to hand. It is not possible, therefore, to give any statistics in regard to these schools in this Report. From a short preliminary report which the Inspector has furnished, it would appear that there have been no new schools added to the list of assisted schools, and that the number of scholars on the rolls and the average attendance at the schools during the year are much the same as for the preceding year.

The results of the year's inspection show on the whole a fair progress. Some difficulty was experienced by the school managers in procuring competent masters for their schools; this to some extent affected the work and general results of the year.

The openings in the Government Departments both here and along the coast for entrance to the Government Service have affected the teaching profession by offering inducements to some masters to discontinue their services as teachers, and more especially by drawing away a considerable number of lads who were expected to remain at school and qualify as pupil-teachers to enter a training college with a view eventually to recruit the ranks of masters.

The Board of Education has had to re-consider the provisions contained in the Education Rules in regard to pupil-teachers, and in the hope of offering better inducements to candidates by a more liberal scale of remuneration and by providing a surer and more appreciable means of preparatory training, a set of proposals drawn up by a sub-committee of the Board was discussed in detail and approved by the Board and strongly recommended for adoption by the Government. It is self-evident that the educational work done in the schools cannot be effective until a constant supply of reliable and competent men as teachers is secured.

The amount paid in Grants to the Primary Schools in 1902 was £1,411.

SECONDARY.

There are six schools affording a higher standard of education to boys and girls than that provided by the Primary Schools. At the close of 1902 there were 775 pupils on the rolls of these schools.

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated with Durham University, affords the means for the more ambitious youths to obtain a higher standard of education and gives to them the opportunity of obtaining the Durham B.A. degree and the License in Theology. There were 42 students in residence in the College in 1902.

Attached to the College is a Training College for the practical and theoretical training of teachers for the Primary Schools.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

The Diocesan Technical School, founded in 1897, aims at imparting a technical education and training in applied mathematics and handicrafts to three classes of learners. It also holds courses of drawing lessons at which pupils attending the elementary schools may receive instruction in accordance with the regulations of the Education Board.

The three classes whose training forms the principal work of the school are

(*a*.) Students who take the higher course of studies comprising Drawing, Plane and Solid Geometry, Elementary Trigonometry, Mensuration, Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, and the theory of the following trades:—

Carpentry, Bricklaying, Joinery, Masonry, Plastering, and Plumbing, Practical work in Carpentry, Rudimentary Land Surveying, Architecture, and Civil Engineering is also taught.

(*b.*) Apprentices, who receive a good grounding in Practical Plane Geometry, Mensuration of Superficies and Solids, and Elementary Building Construction. Practical work is given every day either in the shops at the School or on buildings in course of erection by the School.

(*c.*) Boys of slight education, from town or up-country Missions, who may be taken as pupils for a year in the first place with a view of eventually becoming apprentices. Of these, the latter are expected to return to their people to spread a knowledge of more scientific building in the interior.

The School receives an annual Grant from the Government. The amount paid in 1902 was £120.

The number of pupils attending the School is 14.

MAHOMMEDAN SCHOOLS.

The scheme for affording the Mahommedan population of Freetown the means of providing their children with a sound education based on Western ideas without, in any way, interfering with their religious prejudices, was started in 1901. At the end of 1902 there were four schools open, and the number of children on the rolls amounted to 569, the number in average attendance being 340. It is too early yet to forecast with any degree of accuracy the success of this movement, but that it is in the right direction is shown by the eager manner in which those for whose benefit the scheme was inaugurated have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them. The Mahommedans are amongst the most law abiding and intelligent citizens of Freetown, and any scheme which has for its object the inculcation of English ideas in the minds of their children cannot but prove to be of advantage to the country.

The chief difficulty to be overcome at present is the obtaining of suitable teachers belonging to their own faith for the schools. To meet this difficulty, a class has been established by the Director of Mahommedan Education for the training as teachers of some of the more intelligent youths attending the schools. At the 31st December the number of students attending the class was 11.

The sum paid in Grants to these schools in 1902 was £228.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, &c.

The Colonial Hospital in Freetown contains five wards and provides accommodation for 66 patients. There were 1,396 admissions during the year, of which 871 were discharged cured. The deaths which occurred in the institution in 1902 numbered 105. Of this number 33·3 per cent. took place within 48 hours after admission. There were 59 cases remaining under treatment in the hospital at the close of the year. The number of out-patients attended to during the year amounted to 13,536.

In the Obstetric Ward attached to the hospital 46 persons were admitted.

In addition to the Freetown Hospital, branch hospitals and dispensaries are established at Sherbro, and in each of the five districts of the Protectorate. Dispensaries also exist at Waterloo, and in many of the smaller towns and villages in the Colony.

ASYLUMS.

Lunatic Asylum.

There were 135 persons under treatment in this Asylum during the year, 93 males and 42 females. Of these 11 recovered sufficiently to be discharged, and there were nine deaths. Attached to the Asylum is a garden in which the inmates employ themselves in the cultivation of vegetables. The Principal Medical Officer reports that this form of recreation has contributed largely to the good health enjoyed by the patients.

INCURABLE DISEASE HOSPITAL.

At the close of 1901 there were 83 persons remaining under treatment in this hospital. The admissions in 1902 numbered 193, bringing the total up to 276. Of these 100 were discharged, 59 died, and 117 remained in hospital at the close of the year. The greater number of the inmates are old and infirm paupers suffering from debility and other incurable diseases.

SAVINGS BANK.

In addition to the Savings Bank in Freetown there are branch banks at Bonthe, Waterloo, and Moyamba.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The amount to credit of depositors in these banks on the 1st January, 1902, was	48,904	19	5
The amount deposited during the year was	31,644	10	6
Interest due on deposits...	1,133	7	1
Total	81,682	17	0

	£	s.	d.
Withdrawals during the year amounted to	31,291	14	8
Balance due to depositors at 31st December, 1902	50,391	2	4

showing a net increase of deposits in 1902 of £1,486 2*s.* 11*d.*

The following table shows the transactions of the Savings Bank for the five years 1898-1902:—

Year.	Amount of Deposits.			Amount of Withdrawals.			Amount to Credit of Depositors at 31st December.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1898	24.260	6	0	21,417	16	0	43,303	12	11
1899	26 174	17	5	21,648	6	5	47,830	3	11
1900	25,788	1	5	24,693	13	6	48,924	11	10
1901	25,628	1	4	25,647	13	9	48,904	19	5
1902	32,777	17	7	31,291	14	8	50,391	2	4

The following statement shows the investments on account of the funds of the bank at 31st December, 1902:—

Statement of investments on account of Savings Bank on 31st December, 1902.

Description of Stock, &c.	Value.		
	£	s.	d.
Canada ... ... 3 Per Cent Stock.	2,596	3	1
Ceylon ... ... 3 " "	3,828	7	0
" ... ... 4 " "	1,972	19	6
Hong Kong ... ... 3½ " "	982	15	0
New South Wales ... ... 3½ " "	7,724	10	4
" " ... ... 4 " "	562	1	2
South Australia ... ... 4 " "	1,387	5	3
" " ... ... 3½ " "	4,504	10	1
Queensland ... ... 3½ " "	3,418	4	1
Victoria ... ... 3½ " "	5,198	3	6
" ... ... 4 " "	1,837	12	0
" ... ... 3 " "	1,047	1	5
Wigan Corporation ... ... 3 " "	1,994	12	4
Trinidad ... ... 3 " "	1,500	0	0
South Australia Debentures ... 4 " "	3,500	0	0
Cape ... ... 3 " "	2,043	6	9
Natal ... ... 3 " "	2,021	8	5
" ... ... 3 " "	962	0	6
Queensland ... ... 3 " "	1,626	1	3
Jamaica ... ... 3 " "	1,007	10	2
Paisley Corporation ... ... 3 " "	1,000	0	0
Jamaica ... ... 3 " "	48	9	2
Total	50,763	1	0

The cost of purchase of this Stock was £50,618 5*s.* 9*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

The Police Force in 1902 consisted of a superintendent, an inspector, a sub-inspector, and 262 non-commissioned officers and men. In the month of November the office of sub-inspector was abolished, and the officer who held the appointment was transferred to the Prison Department.

For police purposes the Colony is divided into nine districts, and the distribution of the Force at 31st December was as follows:—To the Headquarters District, 2 officers and 161 non-commissioned officers and men; to the Sherbro District, 55 non-commissioned officers and men; to the Waterloo District, 29 non-commissioned officers and men; to the Mountain District, 12 non-commissioned officers and men; to the Kissy District, 2 men; and to Wellington, Allen Town, and Tassoh Island Districts, 1 man each.

Included in the Force stationed in the Headquarters District is a body of Water Police, consisting of 11 men.

The Force is armed with the Snider rifle, and the men are instructed in elementary infantry drill.

There is a Police Band, and arrangements have been made by which the men belonging to it receive instruction twice a week from the Bandmaster of the West India Regiment stationed in Sierra Leone. The men are making fair progress, and it is hoped that in time the band will become self-supporting.

The cost of the Police Force in 1902 was £8,500.

(B) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

During the year 1902 there were five sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of indictable offences. 47 cases were tried; in 44 cases the accused were convicted; and in 3 acquitted. These figures show a decrease in the number of convictions of 4, as compared with that in the previous year.

The Returns from the Magistrates' Courts, including the Courts of the District Commissioners of Sherbro and Waterloo, show a decrease in the number of summary convictions as compared with 1901. In 1902 it was 1,215, while in 1901 the number was 1,278.

There were no capital cases tried during the year.

(C) PRISONS.

The number of prisoners received during the year was 607, namely 581 males and 26 females. These figures show an increase of 4 over those for 1901. The daily average of prisoners in gaol was 169.

The behaviour of the prisoners has on the whole been satisfactory, though the number of offences against prison discipline dealt with during the year exceeded that for 1901 by 201. The figures being 127 in 1901, and 328 in 1902. Corporal punishment was inflicted on two occasions for breaches of prison discipline.

The health of the prisoners continues to be good. The deaths reported during the year numbered 7, the same as that for the previous year. The causes of death were pneumonia, 3, pleurisy, 1, heart disease, 1, phthisis, 1, and debility, 1.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £4,511. The revenue, which is derived from the sale of broken stones, baskets, coffins, and the repair and manufacture of boots, amounted to £541. In addition to the productive forms of labour mentioned above, the prisoners are also employed in tailoring and laundry work for other Government Departments.

One of the chief improvements introduced into the prison during the year is the numbering and classification of prisoners. Under this system greater facility is afforded for the identification of a prisoner than was formerly the case.

There was one escape during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony, as shown by the Census of 1901, amounted to 76,655. Assuming that it has increased in the same annual proportion as in the previous ten years, it would amount, at 31st December, 1902, to 76,837.

The number of births registered in the Colony during the year was 1,443, giving a birth rate of 18·7 per 1,000 calculated on the basis given above. The deaths numbered 1,825, or 23·7 per 1,000. As compared with the figures for the previous year, the births show an increase of 109, while the deaths were fewer by 26 than the number registered in 1901.

The number of deaths registered in Freetown was 867, which, on a population corrected to last Census, gives a death rate of 24·3 per 1,000. The births registered numbered 544. Of the number of deaths registered, 254 occurred under the age of one year, giving a death rate of 466·9 per 1,000. A Maternity Ward has now been added to the Colonial Hospital, and will be opened shortly. An endeavour will then be made to train midwives, so as to obviate in time the heavy loss of life which now occurs at birth.

The European death rate can only be given for Freetown, and does not include members of the garrison. Eight deaths were registered in Freetown during the year. Of the eight who died, three were landed from steamers for burial or on account of illness, leaving five deaths among the resident

European population. At the Census of 1901 there were 382 Europeans, but of these 112 were on board steamers in the harbour, so that the resident European population of Freetown was 270. With five European deaths this is equivalent to a death rate of 18·5 per 1,000. No deaths occurred among the European Government officials, while the sick rate among the same class was 6·07 per cent. There were no epidemic diseases during the year. Ten cases of small-pox were treated at the small-pox hospital, and there were two deaths from the disease. Of the cases treated, four only were from Freetown, the smallest number for many years. The cases were introduced from steamers or from the Protectorate, and the fact that the number has been so small speaks well for the effectiveness of the measures adopted for preventing the spread of the disease.

SANITATION.

The sanitary working of Freetown is in the hands of the Municipality, and is under the immediate supervision of Dr. Prout, Principal Medical Officer, and Medical Officer of Health for the City. A Staff of one sergeant, who acts as sanitary inspector, 2 first-class and 6 second-class sanitary constables superintend the cleaning of the town, on which 53 labourers are employed, with extra assistance from time to time when required. A systematic inspection of all the yards is carried on regularly week by week, and where yards are found dirty, notices to clean them are served on the occupiers, upon whom devolves the duty of keeping compounds clean; 3,836 notices were served in this way in 1902. When notices are not complied with, legal proceedings are taken against defaulters; special attention is paid to the removal of tin pans, bottles, &c., and the constables inspect all vessels containing water, and empty all those which are found to contain mosquito larvæ. Over 3,000 loads of rubbish were removed in this way during the year by the Sanitary Department, and so far as general cleanliness is concerned, the condition of the town on the whole may be considered satisfactory.

The surface drainage of the town is now being systematically undertaken, and satisfactory drains were made in a considerable number of streets during the year, these, by rapidly removing the surface water, will prevent pools forming, and will improve the health of the town by diminishing the number of breeding places of mosquitoes.

A new and satisfactory water supply, which will do much to improve the health of the town, is now in course of construction.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The rainfall for the year was 183·31 inches. It was less by 15·52 inches than the total recorded in 1901, but 8 inches in excess of that for 1900. The heaviest rainfall occurred in August, when 43·49 inches was measured. The greatest quantity which fell in any one day was 10·82 inches on the 27th July. Of the total rainfall for the year, 150·52 inches fell between the 1st June and the 31st October. No rain fell in the month of January, and only ·01 inch in February. Rain fell on 170 days during the year.

The mean annual temperature was 80·7°. A maximum temperature of 94·4° in the shade was recorded in June, and a minimum temperature of 67° in the same month.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The Revenue and Expenditure in connection with the Post Office transactions for the year amounted to £7,574 7*s.* 10*d.* and £5,488 18*s.* 9*d.* respectively. The Revenue exceeded that for the previous year by £591, while the Expenditure was £542 less than in 1901. This saving is owing to the fact that the interest, amounting to £1,133, due to depositors in the Savings Bank for 1902, is not included in the transactions for the year.

The following comparative statement shows the transactions of the Department for the years 1901 and 1902 between the Colony and the United Kingdom and other places:—

Year.	Received from abroad.		Sent abroad.		Money Orders.					
	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Amount received from abroad.			Amount sent abroad.		
					£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1901 ...	249,410	6,972	176,021	2,391	8,431	3	1	26,554	9	4
1902 ...	261,063	9,731	231,920	3,173	6,202	9	9	26,739	12	7

Of the 9,731 parcels received, 484 were insured and of the 3,173 despatched, 212 were insured. The Customs dues collected on the contents of the parcels received amounted to £779 9*s.* 9*d.*, an increase of £258 16*s.* 1*d.* on the amount taken in 1901.

The Colony's share of commission on Money Orders was £428 19*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of £28 18*s.* 8*d.* over that for the previous year.

INLAND SERVICES.

There was an increase in the transactions of this branch of the Post Office during the year under report. The number of letters and other postal articles exchanged between the Central Office and the various branch offices during the years 1901 and 1902 is shown in the following comparative statement:—

Year.	Letters, Post-cards and Newspapers.	Parcels.	Money Orders.
			£ *s.* *d.*
1901	125,579	1,512	5,655 3 10
1902	161,009	2,662	11,173 16 11

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Sierra Leone is connected by the African Direct Telegraph Company's cables with Bathurst (Gambia) on the north, from whence communication with the United Kingdom is obtained *via* St. Vincent and Madeira to Land's End. Communication is also established with Europe by means of the Spanish and French Government lines *via* Conakry, Dakar, St. Louis, Teneriffe, and Cadiz. On the south, communication is maintained over the African Direct Telegraph Company's lines with Accra, from which place there is telegraphic communication with England *via* Cape Town and St. Helena. There is also a direct cable to Ascension, from which place messages may be despatched to the outside world *via* St. Vincent.

There is also an inland telegraph service which has been erected in conjunction with the railway. At 31st December, 1902, there were 136 miles of this line open. Messages may be sent over it at a cost of 6*d.* for twelve words, and ½*d.* for each additional word over 12.

There is a telephone line which connects the various military offices in and around Freetown. It has been constructed by the War Department for military purposes, and is entirely in the hands of the military authorities.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The sum of £3,366 was expended during the year in repairing the various Government buildings and furniture.

Repairs to roads, streets, and bridges, undertaken in 1902, cost £1,252.

Under Public Works Extraordinary, various works were carried out involving a gross expenditure of £4,478. Of this sum £1,525 was expended in adding a new storey to one of the wards in the Colonial Hospital, the construction of a new block at the Lunatic Asylum, and on one or two other works of minor importance. The drainage and reconstruction of streets in Freetown accounted for £1,638, and £583 was spent on drainage works in the Grassfields district of the town.

In the Protectorate, Public Works, involving an expenditure of £2,842, were carried out during the year. Of this sum £1,210 was spent on the construction of new barracks and quarters, and on repairs to existing buildings, while £1,631 was expended on the bridging of swamps in the Bandajuma district.

A sum of £830 was expended in repairs to streets and bridges in the villages of the Colony. This expenditure was a charge on the House Tax Funds.

PROTECTORATE.

The Protectorate of Sierra Leone comprises an area of about 30,000 square miles. For purposes of administration it is divided into five districts, viz., Karene, Ronietta, Bandajuma, Panguma, and Koinadugu. The affairs of each district are administered by a District Commissioner, acting under instructions from the Governor of the Colony, assisted by an Assistant District Commissioner and a staff of clerks and Court messengers, which latter form the civil police of the district. At the Headquarters of each district a Medical Officer is stationed, together with a detachment of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force under the command of an officer. By the increase in the staff of Court messengers the Frontier Force has been relieved of all duties connected with the civil administration of the district.

The Revenue of the Protectorate, for the year just closed, amounted to £37,745, which was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
House Tax	33,374	7	4
Fines, &c.	307	16	0
Spirit Licences	2,461	0	0
Store „	1,398	19	0
Hawkers' „	200	19	0
Total	£37,743	1	4

In addition to this a sum of £2,649 was received on account of House Tax, but has not yet been brought to account as Revenue for the reason stated earlier in this Report under the heading—Financial. It is worthy of note that the Revenue of the Protectorate is collected without any additional expense being incurred by the Government. The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue for the years 1901-2:—

Comparative Statement of Protectorate Revenue for the years 1901–1902.

Head.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.
House Tax ...	34,868 2 7	33,374 7 4	—	1,493 15 3
Fines, &c. ...	215 9 0	307 16 0	92 7 0	—
Spirit Licences	1,458 10 0	2,461 0 0	1,002 10 0	—
Store " ...	1,805 5 0	1,398 19 0	—	406 6 0
Hawkers' " ...	—	200 19 0	200 19 0	—
Total ...	38,347 6 7	37,743 1 4	1,295 16 0	1,900 1 3

From 1st January, 1902, the rate for a Spirit licence was increased from £2 to £4 per annum, and that for a Store licence was reduced from £2 to £1 per annum. In 1901 the proceeds from Hawkers' licences were included in Store licences.

As will be seen from the foregoing statement the receipts from House Tax form the principal source of Revenue.

Each paramount Chief is responsible for the collection and payment of the tax due in respect of his chiefdom, and he receives a rebate of 5 per cent. when such tax has been paid in full.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to £27,734, as compared with £25,776 in 1901. Of the amount expended during 1902, £7,850 represents the cost of administration, the remainder being expenditure incurred under various other heads as shown below in the comparative statement of expenditure for the years 1901 and 1902.

Head.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Administration	5,650 13 8	7,849 12 11	2,198 19 3	—
Medical Branch	2,625 17 4	3,168 6 1	542 8 9	—
Miscellaneous	13,261 5 8	13,572 8 2	311 2 6	—
Public Works Department	4,238 11 11	3,144 0 4	—	1,094 11 7
Total ...	25,776 8 7	27,734 7 6	3,052 10 6	1,094 11 7

The above shows a net excess of £1,957 18*s.* 11*d.*, which is due to the filling up of appointments of Assistant District Commissioners late in 1901, to the increase in the staff of Court messengers in 1902, to the increase in the number and salaries of the medical officers under the new West African Medical Staff Scheme, and to an increase of expenditure for transport and travelling allowances under Miscellaneous.

In each of the five districts of the Protectorate justice is administered by Courts of three grades, (1) the Court of the Native Chiefs; (2) of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs; and (3) of the District Commissioner.

(1.) The Court of the Native Chiefs, constituted according to native laws and customs, deals with all cases between native and native, civil and criminal, except murder, culpable homicide, and cases of a special kind such as crimes connected with witchcraft, cannibalism, slavery, secret societies, tribal and faction fights, and "offences" specially created by the Protectorate Ordinance and assigned to the District Commissioner's Court. There is no appeal, and the only limitation on its powers of punishment is that it is forbidden to inflict death, mutilation, or grievous bodily harm.

(2.) The Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs consists of the District Commissioner and two or more Native Chiefs nominated by the Governor for the purpose. The opinion of each chief is given orally and recorded, but the final decision rests with the District Commissioner, who presides. The Court deals exclusively with the more serious crimes committed by natives against natives which are beyond the jurisdiction of the Court of the Native Chiefs, namely, murder, manslaughter, inflicting grievous bodily harm, robbery with violence, cannibalism, and crimes connected with secret societies. There is no appeal and (save as to flogging) no limitation on the powers of punishment, which in capital offences may be sentence of death; but all sentences except those which do not exceed a fine of £25 or imprisonment for three months are liable to revision by the Governor.

(3.) The Court of the District Commissioner deals with all cases, civil and criminal, in which any person, who is not a native, is a principal, except capital offences, which have to be sent for trial before the Supreme Court of the Colony. It has also jurisdiction in native cases of witchcraft, faction and tribal fights, and "offences" created by the Protectorate Ordinance referred to above; these "offences" are cases which relate to the Government of the country, such as smuggling, slave dealing, obstructing the course of justice, personation of Government officers, riots, and penalties for evasion of excise licences, and defrauding the Revenue. The District Commissioner sits without a jury. There is an appeal of right to the Supreme Court, in civil cases where the sum in dispute exceeds £25, and in criminal cases when the punishment inflicted is a fine of over £25 or imprisonment for more than three months; in all cases a party aggrieved may appeal by leave of the Court.

An Ordinance has been drafted, and is now before the Legislative Council, to establish a Circuit Court in the Protectorate, presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony. This Court will supersede the Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs, and will relieve the District Commissioner's Court of commercial cases above £50. In all criminal cases in which a native is concerned, two or more Native Chiefs will assist the Judge as Assessors. The Judge is also empowered to call in their aid in a civil case if he thinks it expedient.

In accordance with the law of the Colony and Protectorate no sentence of flogging may exceed 24 lashes, and all such sentences must receive the Governor's approval before the punishment can be inflicted.

Counsel and solicitors have a right of hearing in the District Commissioner's Court, but not in the other Courts except by leave of the District Commissioner.

Mining and land concessions are dealt with by a special Court called the "Concessions Court," consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony.

As regards the Native Court, the District Commissioner of Karene, Dr. Maxwell, in his interesting Report on that District for the year 1902, states; "It is quite certain that it provides the most satisfactory tribunal for the settlement of many purely native cases, and, speaking generally, there are few cases in which the Chiefs misuse their powers in this Court. The majority, I believe, make an endeavour to see justice done, and defects are due more to lack of confidence in their powers than to abuse of those powers. It is not uncommon for natives, aggrieved by a Chief's decision, to complain to the District Commissioner, and the investigation to determine whether this is a case for the District Commissioner to deal with, does not often show an unjust decision on the part of the Chief."

There is no reason to doubt that the foregoing remarks apply with equal force to the other districts of the Protectorate.

The Court of the District Commissioner holds its sittings principally at the headquarters of the district, but the work of this Court is also carried on on patrol, as far as possible, in order to investigate and settle complaints on the spot.

Apart from the obvious advantages of this system, the natives are familiarised with the working of the Court, and confidence in the administration of the districts is engendered and spread. This is shown by the fact that it is not uncommon for natives of even the lowest class to bring complaints to the District Commissioner against their Chiefs, a proceeding which but a short time ago they would not have dared even to contemplate for fear of their lives.

On all sides signs are not wanting that the old order of things is passing away, and that its place is being taken by the firm and just administration of British rule. Tribal disputes are no longer settled by the sword, and slave raiding is a thing of the past. Slave dealing, though not entirely stamped out, is only carried on in a few isolated cases, and the offenders when caught are rigorously punished. It may be that a few of the older and more powerful chiefs look back with regret on the days when they could send out their "war-boys" against their weaker neighbours for the sake of plunder and slaves, but there is not the least doubt that the mass of the chiefs and people greatly appreciate the strong rule under which they now live, and under which their lives, their women, and their property are secure. On the occasion of the Governor's tour through the districts of Ronietta, Panguma, Koinadugu, and Karene in 1901-2, he was welcomed at each halting place with songs and dances, and the burden of the songs was always the same, "The country is glad, there is no more war."

Over and over again on this tour the Chiefs expressed their willingness to pay the house tax as some return for the benefits which they derive under the present system of administration. Both they and their people are fully aware of and appreciate the advantages of living under a settled form of Government, and that this feeling is not confined to those living in the Protectorate is shown by the fact that more than one Chief whose country lies outside our borders has applied to be brought under British protection.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The Colonial Military Force consists of a battalion of the West African Frontier Force and numbers 17 officers and 506 non-commissioned officers and men. The Force is commanded by a Major, and it is periodically inspected by the Inspector-General of the West African Frontier Force whose headquarters are in England.

The expenditure on this Force in 1902 was £22,485.

X.—RAILWAYS.

OPEN LINES.

There was no new section of the line handed over by "Construction" during the year, so that the length of line under the control of the Open Lines Department remained the same as in 1901—viz., 75¾ miles. There are 13 stations on the line.

As compared with 1901, the receipts show an increase of £3,549, but against this there has been an increase in the expenditure, for the year under review, of £2,712 over that for the previous year.

The following shows the figures for the respective years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	17,757	18,518
1902	21,306	21,230

there was a net gain, therefore, on the working of the line of £76 in 1902.

Of the amount earned during the year, £12,598 were received from passenger traffic, £2,407 from goods, and £6,301 from the haulage of construction material. The figures for 1901 were £10,015, £1,507, and £6,235 respectively. It will thus be seen that the increase in the earnings of the railway for 1902 was due almost entirely to increased receipts from passengers and goods, a hopeful sign for the future prosperity of the line. The produce brought to Freetown by the railway consists principally of timber, grass, rice, ginger, and fruit. In a country so well served with waterways as Sierra Leone it has been a difficult matter to persuade the people to send their produce by rail, and freights have had to be reduced to their lowest margin in order to offer sufficient inducement for them to do so. This has been so far successful that it may now be safely said that the bulk of the produce of that part of the country, which is served by the railway, now comes down to Freetown by rail.

(B) CONSTRUCTION.

The section between Moyamba and Bo, a distance of 60¼ miles, was completed in December, 1902. (This section was formally opened for traffic by His Excellency the Governor in February of this year, and handed over to Open Lines.) The work of construction is being rapidly pushed forward, and on 31st December, 1902, about 15 miles of the track beyond Bo had been surveyed and staked out. Much work had also been done in connection with the bridging of the various rivers, many of them large ones, over which the line passes. The amount expended in 1902 was £137,352.

MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.

The preliminary work in connection with the Mountain Railway, which will connect Freetown with the proposed European quarters on the hills, was completed during the year, and the work of construction will be begun with the opening of the new year. The expenditure at 31st December amounted to £6,818.

WATER-WORKS.

Excellent progress has been made on the new water-works during the year. On the 31st December about two-thirds of the service reservoir had been excavated to floor level, and the concrete floor laid to a length of 400 feet for the full width of the excavation. The dam at George's Brook had been completed and the intake main laid to within a mile of the dam. Half a mile of pipe line had also been laid in the town, with hydrants and valves complete. The sum of £11,532 had been spent on this work up to 31st December.

XI.—CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir Charles King-Harman was absent from the Colony on leave from the 10th May to the 4th December. During his absence the Government was administered by the Officer for the time being Commanding the troops.

Mr. Elliott, Collector of Customs, retired on a pension during the year, after 20 years' service on the West Coast.

XII.—GENERAL REMARKS.

The year just closed has been one of prosperity for the Colony—The Revenue has largely exceeded that for any previous year, the Imports have increased, and, most gratifying sign of all, the Exports show a marked increase over those for the past four years—this increase is particularly noticeable in the value and quantity of the products of the country exported. There has been a general revival in trade, and in the Protectorate the Revenue derived from Store Licences has, in spite of reduction by one-half of the cost of the licence, almost equalled the amount derived from this source in 1901.

1902 will, however, best be remembered as the Coronation Year of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and it is a happy circumstance that the year in which this auspicious event took place should have also witnessed the general advancement of one of His Majesty's most loyal Colonies.

Like every other part of the British Empire, arrangements were made in Sierra Leone for fittingly celebrating the Coronation of Their Majesties, and invitations were issued to the various Paramount and Sub-chiefs in the Protectorate to come to Freetown and to take part in them. The news of the King's illness and the consequent postponement of the Coronation, which was received here with grief and dismay, arrived too late to allow of the invitations to the Chief's being cancelled. Many of the Chiefs and their followers had already arrived, and although some of the items on the programme were abandoned, it was considered best that those which more nearly concerned the Chiefs should be carried out. On the day on which the Coronation should have taken place, 207 Chiefs with their wives and followers to the number of a thousand had arrived, and if sad disappointment was experienced owing to the illness of His Majesty, the evidence of the pacification of the country afforded by the abundant and enthusiastic response to the invitation of the Acting-Governor was most gratifying.

At a large meeting of the Chiefs and their followers, the Acting-Governor, attended by the Heads of the Civil and Military Departments, delivered an address, in which he reviewed the great advantages which they had derived from the settlement and opening up of their country, and from the improvements which were being introduced for their welfare. Suitable replies were made by the Chiefs, in which they expressed their loyalty and devotion to His Majesty and the Government.

Marked as has been the improvement in the financial condition of the country in the year under review, it should be still more marked when the products of the rich palm country through which the railway will pass are available for Exports. Hitherto, from want of means of transport, the kernals have been allowed to fall and rot on the ground. The terminus at Bo is now within 20 miles of this rich district, and already small consignments of palm kernels are being brought down by rail.

E. Evelyn,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
13th June, 1903.

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No. 423.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1902 *see* No. 389.)

ACTING GOVERNOR GRAVES to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Fort Thornton,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
9th July, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information the Report on the Sierra Leone Blue Book for 1903 which has been written by Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

FRANK GRAVES,
Acting Governor.

125 Wt 27135 2/05 D & S 5 20450r

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE, 1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £237,730 9*s.* 3*d.*, being £26,593 9*s.* 3*d.* in excess of the estimated revenue, and £31,965 17*s.* 1*d.* in excess of 1902. It is the highest revenue ever collected for one year in the Colony.

The nett revenues for the five previous years were as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1899	168,382
1900	169,370
1901	192,138
1902	205,765
1903	237,534

The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads as compared with the previous year:—

Heads of Revenue.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	121,918	126,811	4,893	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	2,824	3,523	699	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	6,220	5,533	—	687
Fees of Court or Office, &c.	4,725	6,469	1,744	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	7,574	8,698	1,124	—
Rents on Government Property ...	383	312	—	71
Interest	206	174	—	32
Miscellaneous receipts	3,694	5,938	2,244	—
Sierra Leone Railway	20,441	36,629	16,188	—
Protectorate	37,743	43,447	5,704	—
Land Sales	37	196	159	—
Total	205,765	237,730	32,755	790

The continued increase of the revenue is a clear indication of the present peaceful condition of the Colony and Protectorate, and the continued development and extension of trade in the Protectorate.

The expenditure during the year under review amounted to £206,464 5*s.* 1*d.*, being £31,266 4*s.* 2*d.* less than the revenue.

The following comparative table shows the excess in expenditure as compared with the previous year, 1902:

Heads of Expenditure.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	15,896	22.804	6,908	—
Pensions	5,106	5,069	—	37
Governor and Legislature	3,785	3,509	—	276
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	2,905	3,226	321	—
Provincial Administration	1,738	1,743	5	—
Treasury	1,925	2,128	203	—
Customs Department	8,834	9,997	1,163	—
Audit Department	1,889	1,855	—	34
Port and Marine Department ...	1,064	1,049	—	15
Legal Department	4,989	5,098	109	—
Civil Police Department	8,500	8,522	22	—
Prisons Department	4,511	5,108	597	—
Medical Department	4,943	5,426	483	—
Hospital and Dispensaries	4,362	5,293	931	—
Nursing Home	829	762	—	67
Education	3,650	3,473	—	177
Transport	1,341	1,339	—	2
Miscellaneous Services	10,259	8,226	—	2,033
Post Office	5,551	6,970	1,419	—
Colonial Steamer	1,038	902	—	136
" " Special Expenditure	6,623	—	—	6,623
Botanical and Agricultural Department.	1,494	1,686	192	—
Sierra Leone Railway	21,227	31,889	10,662	—
Public Works Department	2,706	2,527	—	179
" " Recurrent	5,078	5,392	314	—
" " Extraordinary... ...	4,477	7,230	2,753	—
West African Frontier Force ...	22,485	21,940	—	545
Protectorate	27,735	83,301	5,566	—
Total	184,940	206,464	31,648	10,124

MUNICIPALITY.

The Government grant to the Freetown Municipality amounts to £1,800 per annum. Up to date the municipality have not taken charge of the roads, but with that exception they manage all other local affairs usually undertaken by such bodies.

The revenue and expenditure including the grant-in-aid for the last five years are as under:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	5,108	5,064
1900	4,440	4,525
1901	5,193	4,902
1902	5,192	5,418
1903	5,102	4,936
Total	25,035	24,845

At the close of the year under review £1,703, as estimated, remained for taxes unrecovered.

ADVISORY BOARDS.

The House Tax Ordinance is working very satisfactorily. The different Advisory Boards take a keen interest in their duties; the following table shows the sums collected from each district during the year 1903, and the amount expended within the district during the same period:—

District.	Amount collected by House Tax.	Amount expended in District.
	£	£
Kissy	189	204
Wilberforce	142	213
Madonkia	256	262
Hastings	112	83
Songo Town	179	40
Kent	103	204
York	82	110
Tassoh...	21	85
Bonthe	308	93
Sherbro	1,917	739
Total	3,309	2,033

With the exception of the Bonthe and Sherbro Districts the receipts from each district represent arrears in respect of the period 1900-2, as, owing to alteration in time of collecting the tax, no collections were made in 1903. As regards Bonthe and Sherbro Districts the receipts represent actual collections, as they are not affected by the alteration.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports continues to show an upward tendency. The value of imports for the year under review amounted to £700,827, as compared with £625,935 for 1902. The opening up of the Protectorate by the railway will have a powerful influence on the imports, and this is gradually but surely making itself felt as the native of the interior comes more and more in touch with the markets of Freetown.

The following table shows the return of the imports for the years 1902 and 1903. The articles which are imported by the government and on which no duty is paid have been separated from those articles on which duty is paid.

Articles.	Value.		Government.		General Public.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	181,977	182,495	—	—	—	—
2 Raw materials	1,128	2,405	—	—	—	—
3. Manufactured articles—						
(*a*) Textile	206,395	216,333	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Metal	64,418	90,268	—	—	—	—
(*c*) Other	171,872	173,088	—	—	—	—
4 Coin and Bullion	30,145	36,238	—	—	—	—
Total	625,935	700,827	72,189	105,228	553,746	595,599

The following table gives the percentage showing the different countries from which the imports were received:—

	per cent.
United Kingdom	73·5
Germany	10·3
France	1·1
America	5·2
British West African Colonies	5·6
Other parts	4·3

The imports for the last five years are as follows; the figures include government material which on an average only amounts to 10·9 per cent. of the total value:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1899	689,806
1900	558,271
1901	548,286
1902	625 286
1903	700,827

The above figures show a steady increase, and as the revenue of the Colony is derived chiefly from its customs duties, the present state of imports can well be classed as very satisfactory.

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year under review amounted to £418,631 including an amount of £77,330 for specie; this, as compared with the year 1902, shows an increase of £15,113, or a rise of nearly 4 per cent.

The following table gives the principal articles of export and their value for the years 1902 and 1903:—

Article.	Value.	
	1902.	1903.
	£	£
Palm Kernels	201,357	196,431
Palm Oil	13,544	14,068
Cola nuts	60,517	76,355
Rubber	8,192	9,258
Ivory	533	663
Other West African Produce	32,823	34,823
Total	316,966	331,598
Specie	77,341	77, 330
Exports other than West African Produce ...	9,211	9,703
Grand Total	403,518	418,631

The following figures show the percentage value of exports to the different places to which the produce was shipped:—

	per cent.
United Kingdom	30·5
Germany	34·7
France	0·7
America	Nil
Other Countries	20·1
British West African Colonies	14·0

SHIPPING.

The following comparative table gives the total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Number	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1899 ...	325	15,143	736	1,166,605	1,061	1,181,748
1900 ...	596	12,966	817	1,277,967	1,413	1,290,933
1901 ...	444	17,069	787	1,232,739	1,232	1,249,808
1902 ...	638	14,416	888	1,453,572	1,526	1,467,988
1903 ...	359	11,406	981	1,676,951	1,340	1,688,357

Owing to the increase in the shipping entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony the light and harbour dues have been considerably benefited, rising from £2,823 in 1902 to £3,523 in 1903, an increase of 25 per cent. This represents at 3*d*. per ton (the colonial light due rate) a tonnage of 56,000, showing that 25 to 30 more cargo steamers, averaging 2,000 tons net, have entered during the year under review.

The passenger traffic from England is almost wholly in the hands of Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company of Liverpool, and the class of boats has greatly improved of late years as regards speed, accommodation and catering.

LIVE STOCK AND PRODUCTS.

Ivory.

The export of ivory was only valued at £663 in the year under review; the supply, although slightly in excess of the previous year, is not large. There seems to be no reason why this should be so, as elephants abound in the Koinadugu and Panguma districts, and the chiefs have complained to me of the damage done to their rice-fields and farms by these beasts. When at Falaba last December the chief showed me two tusks of an elephant that had just been killed, each tusk weighing 80 lbs. The licence for killing is £5 per annum for government officers and £25 for the general public, and it only allows the holder to kill two elephants in the year.

Cattle.

Cattle seem to thrive well in some of the districts, especially Koinadugu and Panguma, but they are a poor breed. The Government have made arrangements to import bulls from the Argentine with the idea of keeping one at each headquarter of the different districts for stud purposes; it is hoped that this experiment will help to improve the breed. There is a great demand for cattle both in Freetown and down the coast, but it is hard to persuade the native from the Protectorate to dispose of his beasts, as he looks upon his cattle as his wealth. There are occasionally very fatal epidemics amongst them. These epidemics are always localised and are checked by the entire removal of the herd affected to another place. The tsetse fly has been discovered in the Karene district by Dr. Gray.

Cotton.

An indigenous variety of cotton grows freely throughout the Protectorate without any attempt at cultivation. During a march of nine weeks, I can say without fear of contradiction that not one day did I go without seeing cotton growing. The chief occupation of the women seems to be spinning; they are employed at this the whole day. Excellent cloths are made in Koinadugu and Panguma districts, and worn by the people in those districts far more than imported cotton stuffs. The local Government are fully alive to the great importance to the British manufacturer that new sources of cotton supply should be established in order to preclude the occurrence of unusual deficiencies in supply, and this Colony is taking her share in giving every help and encouragement to those who are interesting themselves in the growing of cotton. All machinery and implements of any kind for the cotton estates are carried free of freight on the Government Railway, and all cotton purchased up country for exportation is brought down to the port of shipment free of charge. Experts from the Southern States of America have started experimental farms, and in the Ronietta district an area of over 1,000 acres has now been planted with seed. The report on the cotton already purchased from the natives is very satisfactory. There is a large area of land in this Colony and Protectorate, within easy reach of rail and water, suitable as regards soil and climate for cotton cultivation. At first experiments were made to introduce exotic varieties of cotton, but it has been found that the effects of acclimatisation and of unfavourable conditions of soil and climate would not tend to make the exotic plant successful. Moreover, I doubt if the native cultivator would take kindly to the introduction of the exotic plants, as they are more risky to grow than ordinary indigenous varieties, being more susceptible to mishaps due to insect attacks, heavy downpours of rain, and such like. It is questionable whether cotton will be successful in the districts beyond the reach of the railway, as it is doubtful if the crops would be remunerative.

Coffee.

Excellent coffee is grown in the Colony, but little, if any, is exported—the price not paying for the shipment of it.

Rice.

Most excellent rice is grown, far superior to any that can be imported; there is a good market for it, but it seems impossible to impress upon the people the necessity of increasing the area under cultivation. They simply grow sufficient for their wants and perhaps enough for sale to help them to pay the house tax. The present price of rice is ten shillings a bushel.

Minerals.

So far no indications have been found of any precious or valuable minerals, and what little prospecting has been done, has led to no practical results.

Copra.

Experiments in shipment of this product have been tried during the year, but the result has been unsatisfactory; the following is a clear proof that it does not pay to ship this special product:—

For a shipment of 11 bags of copra, weighing 11 cwts., a price of £6 19*s.* net was obtained in Liverpool. It takes 26 dozen cocoa-nuts to give 1 cwt. copra; the price of cocoanuts is 6*d.* a dozen. Therefore 1 cwt. costs 13*s.*, and 11 cwts. at 13*s.* per cwt. cost £7 3*s.*, and this with the price obtained, viz., £6 19*s.*, means a loss of 4*s.* on every 11 bags of copra.

Rubber.

The year under review shewed an increase in the export of this article. 952 cwts. were exported and realised the value of £9,258, as against 926 cwts. with a value of £8,192 the previous year. The exports are made to Great Britain and

Germany, the former having the greater share. It should be pointed out, however, that there has been a great fall in the export of this article, as a comparison of the export for the past eight years will demonstrate:—

Year.	Cwts.	Value.
		£
1896	13,316	79,196
1897	11,658	79,787
1898	5,801	52,504
1899	4,883	43,730
1900	2,452	25,740
1901	1,175	9,203
1902	926	8,192
1903	952	9,258

There can be no doubt that there is a large quantity of rubber to be found in the Protectorate. A few years ago there was a great rush for this article, as the above table will show, and companies were formed for the acquisition of concessionary rights over rubber-producing areas, but after a while this interest subsided and matters returned to their normal condition. Individual efforts, which the Government is desirous of encouraging, are, however, being made to produce rubber. If proper attention is paid to this article, a large export can reasonably be expected. Several rubber trees have been planted in the Government Botanic Station in Freetown, and the experiment promises to be a success. Experiments have also been made in the cultivation of foreign seed but with little success, owing to the nature of the climate.

The Sierra Leone rubber—Landolphia Owariensis—realised at the Liverpool market on October 28, 1903, a price of 3*s.* 8*d.* —3*s.* 8¾*d.* a pound, as compared with 2*s.* 7½*d.*—2*s.* 8*d.* on the same date in the previous year. The other species of rubber found in the Colony are the Landolphia Florida, Landolphia Hendolotti, and one resembling Landolphia Petersiana; but the Landolphia Owariensis is the species most met with.

Palm Oil.

The quantity exported during the year amounted to 232,000 gallons, valued at £14,068, as compared with 220,809 gallons, valued at £13,544, in the previous year. The largest export was made to Great Britain.

Palm Kernels.

There was a decrease in value in the export of this article during the year as compared with the previous year, for whereas the value in 1902 was £201,357, it fell to £196,431 in 1903, although there was a larger shipment during the latter year, being 22,760 tons, as against 22,623 tons in 1902. This decrease is largely due to a fall in the market price. Germany claims the largest share of the export—the price in Hamburg being higher than in Liverpool.

The Protectorate districts abound in palm trees which, if properly worked, will produce a considerable supply of oil and kernels. When, however, it is considered that the natives have to crack the nuts with their hands in order to obtain the kernels their energy is deserving of credit. Much quicker work and a larger supply can be effected by the employment of machinery, and a machine has been introduced which supplies this need. The Government procure this nut-cracking machine for any chief who wishes to have one, and as an encouragement pay half the price of it.

Ginger.

The export of ginger during the year amounted to 17,567 cwts., realising a value of £15,898, as against 15,512 cwts. of the value of £17,358 in the previous year. It is thus evident that, although there was a larger export than in 1902, there was a decrease in value, due mainly to the fall in the market price, which was as low as 1½*d.* a pound.

The supply of this article is obtained almost wholly from the villages, but owing to the fall in price there has been much discouragement to the farmers and less impetus to cultivate a commodity which at one time was in a very flourishing condition and afforded ample means of livelihood.

Cola Nut.

The quantity exported during the year was 15,176 cwts., realising a value of £76,355, as compared with 14,707 cwts. with a value of £60,517 in 1902. The export is made principally to the Gambia and the French West African Colonies of Senegal, viz., Rufisque, Dakar and Goree, whence it is carried to the interior, where there is an inexhaustible demand for it.

The supply is obtained largely from the Protectorate, whither a large number of traders from the Colony resort during the last quarter of the year—which is regarded as the Cola Nut season—and make purchases partly by cash payments and partly by a system of barter.

The market price is subject to great fluctuations which as a result inflict losses to a greater or less degree on the traders, and it not unfrequently happens that large quantities have to be destroyed as useless, due to hot storage on board vessels. The price ranges from £4 10*s.* to £12 and even as high as

£14 a measure, which in weight is between 120 to 140 lbs.; the average market price is between £5 and £6 10*s.* a measure.

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the year under review 25 Ordinances were passed through the Legislative Council, some of which were of an amending nature.

Of those enacting new legislation, the principal were:—

The Post Office Savings Bank Extension Ordinance, No. 5, which extends the operations of the Savings Bank into the Protectorate.

The Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance, No. 6, which provides for the better administration of justice in the Protectorate and the establishment of a Circuit Court presided over by a Circuit Judge who is also a Judge of the Supreme Court.

The Fire Enquiry Ordinance, No. 15, which provides for judicial investigation by the Magistrate in certain cases into the causes of fire.

The Protectorate Marriage Ordinance, No. 19, regulating the law of marriage between Christian persons residing in the Protectorate.

The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, No. 20, defining the terms and conditions applicable to loans thenceforth authorised to be raised by the Legislature, providing for the creation of Inscribed Stock and enabling the Colony to take advantage of the provisions of the Colonial Stock Act, 1877, and subsequent Acts bearing on the subject.

The Public Loan Ordinance, No. 21, providing for a loan of £1,250,000 for railway construction and equipment and other public works and undertakings.

The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, No. 22, which prohibits the introduction of any system of wireless telegraphy into the Colony or Protectorate by unauthorised persons.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY.

As the examination of the primary schools has not been completed, the inspector's report for 1903 is not yet to hand. It is therefore necessary to fall back upon that for 1902 as regards statistics. The number of assisted schools examined was 71 with a roll number of 8,068 and an average attendance of 5,835. The results of this examination showed on the whole some progress.

There was a competitive examination of school work during the year, and the exhibits showed marked progress and reflected great credit on the teachers.

SECONDARY.

There are six Secondary Schools for the higher education of boys and girls. Of these two belong to the Church Missionary Society, two to the Wesleyan Society, one to the Roman Catholic Mission, and one is a private enterprise. There were 796 pupils on the rolls of these schools at the close of the year.

The Government makes an annual grant of £30 to the Grammar School (C.M.S.) for the training of three pupils; and there is a connection with the Wesleyan High School, a department recognised by the Government for the training of teachers for the Primary Schools.

Fura Bay College founded by the Church Missionary Society in 1827 became affiliated to Durham University in 1876, whereby students are enabled to proceed to the degrees in Arts and Theology of that University. There are several scholarships including three of £40 a year, and prizes in Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and for English Essay.

Attached to the college is a Normal Department for the training of primary school teachers, and the college receives an annual grant of £580 from the Government for this purpose.

There were four degrees in arts and 15 in theology conferred during the year, and the number of students at the close of the year was 35.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

This institution was founded in 1897 with the object of imparting technical education and training in applied mathematics and handicrafts.

The number on the roll is 14, divided into students and apprentices. The former pursue the higher course of studies, comprising drawing, plane and solid geometry, elementary trigonometry, mensuration, theoretical and applied mechanics, and the theory of carpentry, bricklaying, joinery, masonry, plastering and plumbing, besides practical work in carpentry, elementary land surveying, architecture, and civil engineering.

The apprentices receive training in practical and plane geometry, mensuration of superficies and solids, and elementary building construction. They also do practical work in the workshops at the school or on buildings in course of erection by the school.

The course of instruction in the shops in under the direction of a European master to which both the students and apprentices have to give not less than 12 hours a week.

During the year above 30 children attending the Cathedral School received instructions in plane geometry and freehand drawing.

A spacious building in memory of the late Prince Henry of Battenberg for the accommodation of students and apprentices has been erected.

The school receives an annual grant of £120 from the Government.

MOHAMMEDAN SCHOOLS.

The scheme inaugurated by the Government in 1901 of providing for the Mohammedan population of Freetown a sound education on western lines, without in the least interfering with their religious scruples, is making steady progress, and there are unmistakable evidences of its appreciation by those whom it is intended to benefit.

The Mohammedans form an important portion of the population and their loyalty to the Government, which is very marked, is enhanced by the feeling that, in the matter of education also, they are made to suffer no disadvantage.

The number of schools continues to be four, with a total number on the rolls at the end of the year of 666, with an average attendance of 440. These schools are conducted by Christian teachers owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable teachers of their own faith. Towards meeting this difficulty a class has been established, conducted by the Director himself, for the training of the more advanced pupils as teachers. The number attending this class at the end of the year was seven, each of whom receives a scholarship grant from the Government of £10 a year, their parents or guardians giving bond for their good behaviour during their period of study and for their services as teachers for at least one year after completing their studies, should the Government require such services.

The following comparative statement shows the attendance at the various schools for the years 1902 and 1903:—

—	31st December, 1902.	31st December, 1903.
Foulah Town School	147	169
Madrasa Suleimania School	232	247
Madrasa Harunia	—	148
Mandingo School	100	102
Total	479	666

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, &c.

The Colonial Hospital in Freetown provides accommodation for 66 patients. During the year 1,493 patients were admitted of whom 1,305 were discharged and 129 died. The number remaining under treatment in the hospital at the close of the year was 59, and the number of out-patients treated during the year was 6,593.

Attached to the hospital is a maternity ward with a European matron. The number of persons admitted during the year was 12. The establishment of this ward, which affords an opportunity for the training of midwives, of which it is to be hoped many will avail themselves, has met a long felt want.

In addition to the Freetown Hospital there are hospitals and dispensaries at Kissy, Sherbro and in each of the five Protectorate districts. Dispensaries also exist at Waterloo and in many of the villages of the Colony.

There is a small-pox hospital at Kissy to which cases of this disease, when discovered, are sent. There were three cases remaining in hospital at the close of the previous year, and during the year 12 cases were admitted, 10 patients were discharged cured, and five died. There is another small-pox hospital at Sherbro into which there were no admissions during the year.

ASYLUMS.

Lunatic Asylum.

The number of patients admitted into the lunatic asylum during the year was 29—19 males and 10 females, which, with 115 patients remaining under treatment at the close of the previous year, makes up at total of 144; of these 10 were discharged and nine died.

A new ward was added during the year at a cost of £843.

INCURABLE DISEASE HOSPITAL.

In the Incurable Disease Hospital at Kissy 184 patients were admitted during the year, which, with a number of 117 remaining under treatment at the close of 1902, makes up a total of 301. Of these 135 were discharged, 57 died, and 109 remained in hospital at the close of the year.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Savings Bank which is attached to the Post Office has its chief office in Freetown with branches at Bonthe, Waterloo, and each of the five Protectorate districts. The work of the Bank is steadily increasing and its benefits are being the more appreciated.

The deposits during the year amounted to £36,682 4*s.* 8*d.* and the withdrawals to £29,381 9*s.* 11½*d.* The number of deposits at the close of the year was 5,307 with a total amount, exclusive of interest for the year, of £57,615 15*s.* 6*d.* due to them.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

The Police Force during the year year consisted of a superintendent, an inspector, and 261 non-commissioned officers and men.

The force stationed in the Waterloo and Sherbro districts are armed with the Snider rifle, but in Freetown the arms are only used for drill, bank-guard, and escort duty.

There is a detective branch at headquarters, which during the year succeeded in bringing to light several cases of offence committed, which otherwise would not have been discovered.

Recruits are drilled daily, when practicable, in elementary and infantry exercises, and attend a class of instruction three times a week in police duties.

The band in connection with the force made good progress during the year under the management of the bandmaster of the 2nd West India Regiment stationed in Sierra Leone, and during the dry season performed in the Victoria Park every alternate Thursday in accordance with arrangements entered into with the Municipal Council.

The upkeep of the force for the year cost £8,587.

(B) Criminal Statistics.

There were during the year five sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of indictable offences. The number of cases tried was 66, as against 57 in 1902, and the number of convictions was 54, as against 44 in the latter year. There were seven acquittals and five cases fell through for want of prosecution. There was an increase of 10 in the number of convictions as compared with that of the previous year, and the number of convictions included seven for murder and one for manslaughter.

The number of summary convictions in the Magistrate's Courts, including the Courts of the District Commissioners of Waterloo and Sherbro, was 1,082, as compared with 1,215 in 1902, shewing a decrease of 133.

(C) Prisons.

The number of prisoners received during the year was 597, viz., 566 males and 31 females, shewing a decrease of 10, as compared with 1902. There was a daily average in gaol of 216.

There was a large increase in the number of offences against prison discipline dealt with during the year over that of the previous year, for whereas in 1902 only 328 cases were dealt with, during 1903 the number was 1,102. It should be pointed out that this increase was due not so much to the fact that the prisoners were worse behaved, but that stricter discipline was maintained. On the whole the conduct of the prisoners was good. There were two cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners continued to be good.

Such penal labour as treadmill and shot drill has been abolished and the prisoners are employed at stone-breaking, carpentry, tailoring, shoemaking, basketmaking, and on general public works. The proceeds from the sale of manufactured articles in connection with the manufacturing department for the year was £1,117, as compared with £579 in 1902.

There was only one case of escape, and the prisoner was recaptured.

The expenditure for the year was £5,057.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

As the census of the Colony is taken once in every decade, there has been none since 1901 when the population as shewn by that census amounted to 76,655 for the Colony alone; the population for the year cannot therefore be determined with any precision, but it may be approximately stated at 77,032. The census of the Protectorate has never been taken.

The number of births registered in the Colony during the year was 1,494, giving a birth-rate of 19·4 per 1,000 calculated on this approximate basis. The deaths number 1,742, or 22·6 per 1,000 on the same basis. As compared with the previous year the births shew an increase of 51 and the deaths a decrease of 83, which may have been due to improved sanitary conditions.

The number of births registered in Freetown was 553 and deaths 839. There was a heavy infantile mortality, which, it is hoped, the establishment of the maternity ward at the Freetown Hospital will greatly obviate.

Eleven Europeans, including three persons belonging to the garrison and two persons who died on board ship, were buried at Freetown during the year.

There was no mortality among the European Government officials nor was the sick-rate among them high.

There is no registration of births or deaths within the Protectorate.

There were 15 cases of small-pox treated at the small-pox hospital, and five deaths from that disease.

SANITATION.

The municipality is still responsible for the sanitation of Freetown which is under the immediate supervision of Dr. Prout, the Principal Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health for the city. There is a system of yard to yard inspection for the purpose of removing all filth and every kind of rubbish likely to be of detriment to health, and the occupiers are required to keep their premises free from grass and high weeds. A great improvement in the sanitary condition of the town has resulted therefrom.

The surface drainage of the town has been continued and many streets were satisfactorily drained and reconstructed during the year. The sum of £2,153 was expended during the year on this work.

There has been rapid progress in the water supply of Freetown. Standpipes have been erected in many streets at easy distances from each other, and when the waterworks have been completed, the town will be in possession of a very copious supply of excellent water.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The total rainfall for the year was 162·01 inches, as compared with 183·31 inches the previous year. The heaviest rainfall was in August when 53·75 inches was measured, and the 12th of that month witnessed the greatest rainfall in any one day, namely 9·55 inches. There was no rainfall in February and only 0·16 inches was recorded in December.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The revenue and expenditure of the Postal Department for the year amounted to £8,666 and £6,922 respectively. The revenue exceeded that of the previous year by £1,092.

The following statement shews the transactions of the department with the United Kingdom and other places during the year, as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	Received from abroad.		Sent abroad.		Money Orders.	
	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Amount received from abroad.	Amount sent abroad.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1902 ...	261,063	9,731	231.920	3,173	6,202 9 9	26,739 12 7
1903 ...	293.160	12,362	257,750	3,023	7.778 19 0	24,870 15 2

The total number of postal articles and parcels dealt with during the year was 750,765, being 81,197 in excess of the previous year.

Of the 12,362 parcels received 657 were insured, and of the 3,023 despatched 286 were insured. The amount of customs dues collected on parcels received was £1,003 17*s*. 5*d*. as against £779 9*s*. 9*d*. the previous year, shewing an increase of £224 7*s*. 8*d*.

The Colony's share of commission on money orders was £516 6*s*., shewing an increase of £87 7*s*. 5*d*. over the previous year.

During the year a Money Order Exchange was established between the Colony and the Republic of Liberia through the medium of the General Post Office, London.

INLAND SERVICES.

There has been a steady increase in the transactions of this branch during the year. The following statement shews the work done as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Money Orders.
			£ *s*. *d*.
1902	161,009	2,662	11,173 16 11
1903	180,878	3,771	14,324 5 8

The following inland post offices were opened during the year, viz., Bo and Victoria in the Ronietta district.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The African Direct Telegraph Company still continues its operations and the Colony is connected by its cable with Bathurst, Gambia, on the north, whence communication with the United Kingdom is maintained viâ St. Vincent and Madeira, and on the south with Accra, whence communication is maintained with the United Kingdom viâ Cape Town and Saint Helena. There is a duplicate cable to Bathurst, with intermediate connections at Conakry, Bissao and Bulama, and from Bathurst to Dakar, Saint Louis, Teneriffe and Cadiz. This duplicate cable which is owned by the West African Telegraph Company is worked by the African Direct Telegraph Company. There is also a direct cable to Ascension, whence messages may be despatched viâ Saint Vincent. The rate per word from Sierra Leone to the United Kingdom is 4*s*. 6*d*., Bathurst 1*s*., Ascension 1*s*., and Accra 1*s*. 2*d*. The Colony gives an annual subsidy of 1,300 to the Telegraph Company.

The inland telegraph service is connected with the Railway Department. On 31st December it had reached a distance of 136 miles, working in conjunction with the railway extension. The rate for messages is 6*d.* up to 12 words and ½*d.* for every additional word. This inland service has been a great boon as it enables messages to be exchanged between residents in Freetown and the towns and villages in the Protectorate. The number of telegrams sent during the year was 13,391.

At present the only telephone is in the hands of the War Department; the line connects Government House with Tower Hill Barracks, the Colonial Secretariat, and the Post and Police Offices.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year the sum of £3,177 was expended on the repair of the various Government buildings and furniture.

The expenditure on repairs to roads and bridges was £1,724 as against £1,252 in the previous year.

A further sum of £2,092, chargeable to the House Tax Fund, was expended on repairs to roads and bridges in the villages of the Colony.

Various works involving a total expenditure of £6,608 were carried out under Public Works Extraordinary. This amount includes the following items:—£2,167 on rebuilding of Government House, £2,153 on the drainage and reconstruction of streets in Freetown, £843 on the building of a new ward at the Kissy Asylum, and £576 on the rebuilding of the Crown Law Office.

In the Protectorate the sum of £3,365 was expended on various works, including the building of frontier huts and hospitals at Batkanu, the present headquarters of the Karene district, the erection of Court Messengers' quarters at Panguma and the building of an emergency ward at Moyamba.

The sum of £910 was realised from the supply of water to ships, and the total sum received as rent of Crown lands was £281; the sale of Crown lands realised £36.

Owing to the heavy outlay on railway works, it has been necessary to considerably curtail expenditure on public works.

IX.—RAILWAYS.

OPEN LINES.

Statistics for the years 1902 and 1903 shewing the earnings:—

—	Traffic Receipts.		Construction. Materials.	Total.
	Coaching and Sundries.	Goods.		
	£	£	£	£
1902	12,598	2,407	6,301	21,306
1903	16,349	3,591	16,680	36,620

REMARKS FOR 1903.

The extension from Rotifunk to Bo was completed and handed to open lines on the 20th of February, 1903. The gauge of the line is 2′ 6″ throughout. During the year 1903 there was an exceptionally heavy construction traffic over the open lines from Freetown to Bo. Public and Government traffic has, however, increased in a fairly satisfactory manner. The quantity of kernels brought down from the interior by the railway, though not so large as was anticipated, has, nevertheless, been satisfactory, and there are prospects of a considerable development of this traffic.

The progress of the railway on the whole during the year 1903 has been of a satisfactory nature.

What were formerly small villages on the railway line are now becoming large towns. The people are beginning to realise the advantage of the railway, and although at first timid as to its use, the passenger traffic is beginning to show a decided improvement.

The following comparative statement will show the advance made during the year under review as compared with the previous year:—

—	1902.	1903.
Number of stations opened for traffic	13	19
	Miles.	Miles.
Length of line opened for traffic	75¾	136
	£	£
Cost of working open lines	21,230	31,926

CONSTRUCTION.

The construction of the extension of the Sierra Leone Government Railway has proceeded steadily throughout the year. On the 1st of January the track was laid to 136¼ miles, and on the 31st December it reached 177 miles from Freetown. The building of this 40¾ miles of railway necessitated the removing of 428,569 cubic yards of earth and the getting and spreading of 31,521 cubic yards of ballast, the bridging over of rivers and swamps with 17 temporary timber bridges, of a total length of 1,314 feet, and the construction of 58 culverts formed with steel and earthenware pipes, varying in diameter from 18 inches to four feet.

15 permanent bridges of 26 spans of a total length of 825 feet have been erected to replace temporary timber bridges, completing the railway up to the 91st mile with steel girder bridges.

The construction of the bridges over the river Sewa, 718 feet in length, was commenced in November, 1903.

Station buildings, consisting of station master's offices, freight rooms, and dwelling houses have been erected at all stations as far as Baoma (159¾ miles), and are all connected with Freetown by the electric telegraph.

The Rotifunk-Bo extension was handed over by the construction engineer to the open lines on the 19th February, and from that date a public service of trains has been run from Freetown to Bo.

MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.

This work which was commenced in October, 1902, was completed in December, 1903. The length of the line is 5¾ miles, and goes from Freetown to Hill Station, which is the site on which the Government have erected residences for their officials.

Hill Station is at an altitude of 900 feet. The consulting engineers' revised estimate of cost was £33,486, and the work has been completed for £31,903. This line will enable the European residents of this Colony to leave the low lying town of Freetown and reside at an altitude where not only fresh air and pretty scenery are obtainable, but also refreshing sleep, which is so essential to good health in the tropics. The Government have erected excellent houses for their officials.

WATER-WORKS.

Five miles of distributing mains were laid in Freetown during the year. The intake main to George's Brook dam was completed, the Congo Brook dam was completed, and 1½ miles of the intake main laid; the 1st and 2nd sections of the service reservoir on Tower Hill were finished.

Twelve stand pipes were erected in the town.

Total expenditure on these works up to 31st December, 1903, amounted to £18,117.

X.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

In addition to the Imperial Military Force, the Colony has a battalion of the West African Frontier Force, the cost of which is borne solely by the Colony. In 1903 it amounted to £24,567.

XI.—PROTECTORATE.

The policy of administration in the Protectorate has been so fully described in previous reports that it is unnecessary to go over the same ground.

Government are making roads in the Protectorate; two excellent roads have been made in the course of the year, one from Bo on the railway to Bandajuma, the headquarters of the district of the same name, and the other from Hanga on the railway to Panguma, which is the headquarters of that district. The policy of the Government is to employ the people of the district as much as possible under their chiefs on this work of making roads; the chiefs obtain the labourers, who are paid a daily wage by the Government, and the chiefs receive a certain sum for each labourer. In this way both parties are satisfied.

NATIVE COURTS.

The District Commissioners report that further experience strengthens the views expressed in previous years as to the value of native courts for purely native disputes. These courts are and must for long remain, the most efficient tribunals for the settlement of minor matters, both civil and criminal. Every endeavour is made to keep the chiefs fully informed of their powers; they are encouraged to exercise those powers, and led to believe that they will have the support of the Government in so doing. The chiefs need more encouragement than restriction. They honestly try to give right decisions.

Many of the chiefs complain that the power they formerly possessed has been taken from them. Naturally, they cannot have the same power over their people which they had in the old slave days, but their power is upheld in every way possible by the District Commissioners. What the chiefs cannot understand is that their young men prefer leaving their villages for work on the railway and in Freetown; but, considering that they get a good wage for their labour, from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day, they naturally prefer it to unpaid labour in their villages under their chiefs. This exodus from the villages to the railway works and the town is very noticeable, as the farms now seem to be worked solely by old men, women, and children; but this will right itself before long, and those at present employed on the railway works will be compelled to return to their villages and help to work the land and develop the country.

For the area of the land, the Protectorate is not thickly populated; and no doubt the unrest and disturbances of the past have thinned the population, but as the African is a very prolific race, no doubt this disadvantage will have passed away in the next fifteen years. At present the sparseness of the population is one of the chief causes of the slowness in developing the country.

TRADE.

Rice, palm kernels and cola nuts form the staple export of the districts. In some of the districts there is a small industry in earthenware pots, wooden bowls, rope, mats, baskets, etc. The rubber vine grows wild, but the natives do not take much trouble to extract the rubber. The principal imports into the districts are cotton goods, tobacco and spirits.

The total cost of the administration of the Protectorate amounts to £33,301, but this is exclusive of the cost of the West African Frontier Force which amounts to £21,940.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Many enquiries have been made by manufacturers in Great Britain as to the trade of this Colony, and to the possibility of pushing certain articles. These enquiries are something new, but are heartily welcomed, and the fullest information will always be gladly given to those who contemplate commercial relations with this Colony.

G. B. Haddon Smith,
Colonial Secretary

Colonial Secretariat,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
26th June, 1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
404	Grenada	1903
405	Southern Nigeria	1902
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia...	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1985]) ...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1902–1903
416	Leeward Islands...	"
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda...	"
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.

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1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 460.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 423.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September 1905.

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1905.

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No. 460.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 423.)

MR. PROBYN to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
24th July, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose copies of the report on the Blue Book for 1904.

2. The report shows that both the Colony and Protectorate made some progress during 1904. In order that the rate of progress may be increased, it seems necessary that considerable attention should be given to education in agriculture, and also that efforts should be made to assist the natives in organising their labour.

I have, &c.,

L. PROBYN,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE, 1904.

1. The area under the control of the Government has a coast line of 210 miles; about midway on this coast is situated the oldest part of the Colony, known as the Peninsula, which is about 23 miles in length, with a minimum width of about 14 miles, having as its chief port Freetown, the headquarters of the Government. One hundred miles south-east from the area above-mentioned, there is another, about 80 miles in length, with a varying width not definitely ascertained; this latter area forms another part of the Colony, and is known as the Sherbro District; it has two ports of entry, *i.e.*, Bonthe and Mano Salija.

The remaining area under the control of the Government is, approximately, about the size of Ireland, and is known as the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

In the Colony the laws are founded on the English law, with such modifications as are required by local circumstances. The laws of the Protectorate are those of the native chiefs modified by the Protectorate Ordinances, the chief objects of which are to abolish slave dealing and to eradicate such native customs as are repugnant to civilisation. It will be readily understood that the administrative system in the Colony is similar to that which obtains in old-established Crown Colonies, while that in the Protectorate resembles the administrative system of the Nigerian and East African Protectorates.

As the trade interests of the Colony are identical with those of the Protectorate, it would tend to confusion if each was dealt with in a separate report; it is proposed, therefore, to call attention whenever any matter relates exclusively to the Colony or Protectorate.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

2. The net revenue for the five years ending 31st December, 1904, is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1900	169,370
1901	192,138
1902	205,767
1903	237,534
1904	240,472

The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue, as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

Heads of Revenue.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	126,811	132,799	5,988	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	3,523	3,556	33	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,533	5,331	—	202
Fees of Court or Office, &c.	6,469	6,695	226	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	8,698	8,698	—	—
Rents on Government Property ...	312	284	—	28
Interest	174	1,827	1,653	—
Miscellaneous receipts	5,938	2,238	—	3,700
Sierra Leone Railway	36,629	35,642	—	987
Protectorate	43,447	43,238	—	209
Land Sales	196	164	—	32
Total	237,730	240,472	7,900	5,158

The principal increases and decreases shown in the above table are thus explained:—

Customs.

The duties on spirits and tobacco were increased in November and realised, approximately, £3,000; the balance of the increase may fairly be attributed to improvement in trade.

Interest.

The proceeds of the loan became available in June; for some years previously large amounts had been advanced from general revenue to carry on the loan works pending the raising of the loan. In June these advances were repaid, and a portion of the amount invested in such manner that it yielded interest during the year.

Miscellaneous Receipts.

The receipts in 1903 were abnormal, as they included the sum of £4,000, proceeds of the sale of the steam launch "Alexandra."

Protectorate.

The receipts in 1903 were also abnormal, as they included a sum of £2,649 for house tax, which should have been brought to account in 1902. It will be noted, therefore, that there was an increase in the true revenue of the Protectorate for 1904.

Railway.

In 1903, the haulage for construction realised £16,680, as against £7,274 in 1904.

EXPENDITURE.

3. The expenditure for the five years ending 31st December, 1904, is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1900	156,421
1901	173,457
1902	184,940
1903	206,464
1904	237,892

The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1903:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	22,804	45,709	22,905	—
Pensions	5,069	5,044	—	25
Governor and Legislature	3,509	3,771	262	—
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	3,226	3,314	88	—
Provincial Administration	1,743	1,846	103	—
Treasury	2,128	2,132	4	—
Customs Department	9,997	8,939	—	1,058
Audit Department	1,855	1,737	—	118
Port and Marine Department ...	1,049	1,097	48	—
Legal Department	5,098	4,944	—	154
Civil Police Department	8,522	8,499	—	23
Prisons Department	5,108	4,698	—	410
Medical Department	5,426	5,990	564	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,293	5,390	97	—
Nursing Home	762	730	—	32
Education	3,473	3,985	512	—
Transport	1,339	1,575	236	—
Miscellaneous Services	8,226	10,959	2,733	—
Post Office	6,970	8,316	1,346	—
Colonial Steamer	902	90	—	812
Botanical and Agricultural Department.	1,686	1,842	156	—
Sierra Leone Railway	31,889	40,097	8,208	—
Public Works Department	2,527	2,229	—	298
" " Recurrent	5,392	5,009	—	383
" " Extraordinary... ...	7,230	4,720	—	2,510
West African Frontier Force ...	21,940	22,566	626	—
Protectorate	33,301	32,664	—	637
Total	206,464	237,892	37,888	6,461

The reasons for the principal increases and decreases shown in the above table are, respectively, as follows:—

Charge on account of Public Debt.

The increase under this head is due to the payment of a half-year's interest on the loan for £1,250,000, issued in June.

Miscellaneous Services.

The allowance paid to troops in compensation for Customs duties is now included under this head, as is also the grant-in-aid of the British Cotton Growing Association.

Post Office.

For explanation of increase under this head, *see post* paragraph 34.

Sierra Leone Railway.

The extension of the line under the control of Open Lines accounts for the increase under this head.

Customs Department.

The saving under this head is due to the allowance paid to troops being charged to Miscellaneous Services. *See* above.

Colonial Steamer.

Steamer sold in 1903.

Public Works Extraordinary.

Expenditure on building of barracks and quarters, and on the construction of roads was reduced in 1904, and accounts for the saving under this head.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND PUBLIC DEBT

Assets and Liabilities.

4. At the close of 1904 there was an excess of assets over liabilities of £99,943 1*s.* 4*d.*

Public Debt.

5. The loan of £1,250,000, authorised by the Public Loan and the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, 1903, was floated by the Crown Agents in June in the form of 4 per cent. 10-year convertible bonds, the price of issue being £98. The net proceeds of the loan, after deducting the expenses of issue and conversion, amounted to £1,196,701 12*s*. 7*d*.

At 31st December, bonds amounting to £488,400 had been converted into 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock of the value of £512,820, at the value of £105 stock for each £100 bond. This has the effect of increasing the amount of the Funded Debt, which at the close of the year amounted to £1,274,420, but it reduces the rate of interest payable by one-half per cent.

The expenditure upon the various works provided for in the schedule to the Loan Ordinance amounted at 31st December to £1,032,292 5*s*. 7*d*., leaving a balance of £164,409 7*s*. available for the completion of such works as were not finished at that date.

It is anticipated that there will be a considerable saving on the appropriation for "Railway Construction and Equipment" and "Freetown Wharf," which in view of the above-mentioned excess of assets over liabilities, will be available for carrying out other much-needed and beneficial works.

MUNICIPALITIES.

6. Freetown in 1904 was the only town possessing a Municipal Council. The Board consists of 15 councillors, representing the three wards of the city. Of these, 12 are elected, and three are nominated by the Government.

The revenue of the Board is derived from house rates, market dues, cemetery fees, trade, shop, store and hawkers' licences, licences on vehicles, and licences taken out by professional men for the practice of their professions. The Board manage all municipal affairs usually undertaken by such bodies, except the maintenance and repair of streets. Until the street and drainage scheme is completed, the maintenance and repair of streets and drains are carried out and paid for by the Government, who retain, by way of partial offset, the proceeds of all liquor licences; when the scheme is completed, the proceeds mentioned will be paid to the Municipality, together with an annual sum of £500, and the Government will be relieved of the present annual grant of £1,800.

The rate on house property is 5 per cent. on the assessed annual rental value.

The subjoined table shows the revenue and expenditure, including the grant-in-aid for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	4,400	4,525
1901	5,193	4,902
1902	5,192	5,418
1903	5,102	4,936
1904	6,567	7,685*

* This amount includes expenditure from Loan Funds.

The Municipality has a debt amounting to £2,800, being the amount of two loans of £300 and £2,500 made to it by the Government for municipal works. For the redemption of these loans, a sinking fund has been provided.

ADVISORY BOARDS.

7. The House Tax Ordinance enacts that the amount realised from the tax in each district of the Colony shall be spent by the Public Works Department upon works of improvement in the district in which it is collected, and provides for the appointment by the Governor of an Advisory Board in each district, whose duty it is to make recommendations as to what works of improvement should be carried out.

The Sherbro district (which does not include the Port of Sherbro) is, in the main, inhabited by natives living under a system of tribal government, and, as there will be difficulty in appointing an Advisory Board, the law enacts that the amount realised by the tax shall be spent on such works for the improvement of the district as may be decided upon by the Governor in Council.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of each district for the year under review, and the balance to its credit at 31st December:—

District.	Revenue collected.	Expenditure.	Balance to credit at 31st December, 1904.
	£	£	£
Sherbro	1,183	486	4,803
Bonthe	348	77	501
Hastings	99	12	159
Kissy	371	349	99
Wilberforce	242	356	34
Madonkia	336	354	311
Songo	154	319	350
Kent	150	97	179
York	73	119	55
Tassoh...	34	13	33

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

8. In a report, dated 30th March, 1905, which has been printed for the information of the Chambers of Commerce in England, the Collector of Customs has dealt exhaustively with trade, imports, and exports during the year 1904, but the following summary calls attention to the chief points of importance.

The total value of imports for the year under review amounted to £717,236, an increase of £16,410 or 2·3 per cent. over that for the previous year.

The following table shows the imports classified so as to distinguish commercial imports from Government imports and specie for each of the five years 1900-4:—

Year.	Free imports.		Specific.		Ad valorem.		Total.		Specie.	Grand Total.
	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900 ..	53,962	4,113	131,243	18,385	294,009	51,440	479,214	73,938	5,119	558,271
1901 ..	42,198	4,607	122,121	8,682	297,573	71,226	461,892	84,515	1,878	548,285
1902 ..	46,048	5,112	142,405	4,213	338,148	59,863	526,601	69,188	30,145	625,934
1903 ..	45,735	13,825	145,163	2,292	368,463	89,110	559,361	105,227	36,238	700,826
1904 ..	60,054	8,436	151,878	1,292	354,812	57,678	566,744	67,406	83,086	717,236

It will be noticed from this table that the commercial imports during the year 1902 were greatly in excess of those of 1901; the explanation is, that trade during the latter year as well as in 1900 was still suffering from the effects of the outbreak in 1898.

The increase in commercial imports in 1904 was only £7,383, as compared with £32,760, the amount of the increase during 1903. This falling off in the ratio of increase is probably largely due to the comparative slowness with which an increase in imports follows any increase in exports; thus the increase in exports of produce and manufactures of the country in 1902 was £61,825, whereas the increase in 1903 was only £14,360, thus making it natural that the ratio of increase in the imports in 1904 should be less than in 1903. It may be here mentioned, as a matter of satisfaction, that there was in 1904 an increase of £24,870 in the exports of produce and manufactures of the country, and that the rate of increase was progressive throughout the year, thus indicating that there will be a still larger increase in 1905. This latter point is borne out by the fact that the railway receipts for the conveyance of country produce, which during the first half of the year only averaged £400 per month, gradually rose during the second half of the year, as is shown in the following table:—

Receipts from Country Produce.

Month.	Amount.
	£
July	645
August	981
September	907
October	1,050
November	1,451
December	1,243

The article of import which suffered most in 1904 was cotton goods, in the value of which there was a decrease of £16,000; the rise in price in England affords a reason why this article was specially affected.

The following table shows the principal articles of import for the five years 1900-4:—

TABLE showing PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of IMPORT for the FIVE YEARS 1900 to 1904.

Article.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£
Apparel		—	9,669	—	11,088	—	10,735	—	9,541	—	12,063
Bags	Nos.	278,355	5.807	301,001	5,883	397,903	6,168	314,785	4,913	325,641	5,949
Beads		—	3,891	—	4,708	—	2,618	—	3,344	—	5,095
Books		—	5,883	—	4,194	—	4,741	—	5.103	—	5,766
Building materials		—	3,036	—	3,227	—	3,425	—	4,869	—	6,085
Bullocks	Nos.	62	289	409	2,018	285	1,333	306	1,613	833	5,197
Cigars and manufactured tobacco	Tons	5	2,484	6	3,094	8	4,202	9	4,329	10	5,321
Coal and patent fuel	„	19,034	29,439	13,432	17,812	15,644	19,366	16,912	19,406	19,262	21,519
Cottons		—	134,434	—	137,696	—	171,180	—	182,119	—	165,690
Earthenware		—	4,757	—	4,738	—	4,465	—	5,693	—	5,888
Flour in barrels	Tons	1,533	18,010	1,245	14,613	1,490	19,759	1,084	14,285	1,504	21,331
Gin (Geneva)	Galls.	123,397	16,215	133,559	19,164	123,951	18,457	113,882	17,018	114,373	16,473
Haberdashery		—	18,815	—	21,949	—	24,917	—	30,681	—	28,347
Hats and caps		—	6,014	—	5,163	—	6,708	—	7,982	—	7,276
Hardware		—	16,378	—	15,669	—	16,153	—	16,961	—	18,483
Lumber	Ft.	1,831,670	10,256	2,001,135	10,289	765,501	4,772	1,711,549	11,112	1,643,986	10,106
Medicines and drugs		—	4,712	—	4,272	—	5,136	—	5,612	—	5,914
Oil (kerosine)	Galls.	151,813	4,077	232,032	5,484	213,039	5,604	219,356	6,522	302,273	9,677
Perfumery		—	3,828	—	3,445	—	3,435	—	3,886	—	5,041
Provisions		—	11,282	—	12,438	—	12,647	—	16,350	—	15,721
Rum	Galls.	141,192	10,544	145,786	10,372	175,785	11,908	184,161	12,156	197,647	14,110
Salt	Tons	5,165	12,995	3,679	10,024	5,569	15,153	5,308	13,692	5,205	13,169
Tobacco unmanufactured	„	593	24,839	451	20,219	658	29,626	709	84,095	704	30,971
Whisky	Galls.	29,211	5,320	27,470	4,665	34,533	5,712	33,475	5,123	31,637	5,627
Wines other than Claret	„	5,103	3,049	5,991	3,249	7,341	4,668	10,093	5,396	7,972	4,048
Woollens		—	6,498	—	7,720	—	7.213	—	10,417	—	7,592

The relatively large importations of flour and lumber in 1900 were probably due to the after effects of the outbreak in 1898. The statistics respecting building materials and lumber cannot be regarded as a reliable indication of trade, as they include importations for the Imperial (War Department) and Colonial Governments; perhaps the most reliable index of progress is the steady increase in kerosine oil and in manufactured tobacco and cigars.

9. The following table shows the value of exports for the last five years, distinguishing the produce and manufacture of the Colony from other exports, and showing separately the value of specie and bunker coal:—

Year.	Specie.	Bunker Coal.	Produce and Manufacture of the Country.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1900	44,491	—	307,529	10,451	362,471
1901	38,577	—	254,969	10,463	304,009
1902	77,341	—	316,794	9,382	403,517
1903	77,330	—	331,154	10,147	418,631
1904	77,875	40,052	356,024	10,919	484,870

NOTE.—Prior to 1904 the value of bunker coal has not been shown in the export return.

It will be observed that while the exports of specie and of the produce and manufactures of other countries show but a slight increase over the year 1903, the value of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the country exhibits a very marked increase over that for the previous year, viz., £24,870.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of the principal articles of export for the five years 1900-4:—

Articles.	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Benniseed	481	4,559	235	2,610	213	2,006	292	2,547	106	925
Cola nuts	748	79,219	670	51,805	735	60,516	759	76,354	778	80,742
Ginger ..	498	6,233	622	8,742	776	17,358	878	15,898	885	12,743
Gumcopal	115	6.953	67	5,803	69	6,820	67	6,740	42	4,033
Palm kernels.	21,517	171,774	20,475	161,749	22,623	201,356	22,760	196,431	25,101	213,731
	Galls.		Galls.		Galls.		Galls.		Galls.	
Palm oil	128,608	7,436	164,340	9,816	220,809	13,544	232,000	14,068	241,131	16,245
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Pepper ..	41	743	43	637	27	674	77	1,956	53	1,536
Piassava	59	862	8	185	68	1,104	177	3,528	156	2,904
Rubber..	123	25,741	59	9,203	46	8,192	48	9,258	68	18,055
	—	303,520	—	250,550	—	311,570	—	326,780	—	350,914

Compared with the exports from the other British Colonies on the Coast, the disproportion between the quantity of palm kernels and the quantity of oil exported is very marked, as the following table will show:—

Sierra Leone	9	gallons	to 1	ton	of kernels.
Gold Coast	249	„		„	„
Southern Nigeria ...	222	„		„	„
Lagos	69	„		„	„

It has not been shown, nor is it probable, that the Sierra Leone nut is inferior in oil-bearing quality to that produced in the other Colonies. It is possible that an explanation may be found in the fact that in the oil-palm districts of the Sierra Leone Protectorate, it has been contrary to the native porroh law to gather the nuts in large quantities at those periods of the year when they are still covered by the oil-yielding covering. Those periods coincide with the planting and reaping seasons for rice, cassada, and other crops, and the porroh was no doubt originally placed on the palm trees partly as a protection against the cutting of unripe nuts and partly to prevent the people from leaving their work on the farms in order to gather the nuts. It would be obviously unwise to eradicate the native law, but efforts have been made to limit its application so that a section of the inhabitants in each town will always be free to gather nuts when the oil-yielding covering is at its best.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

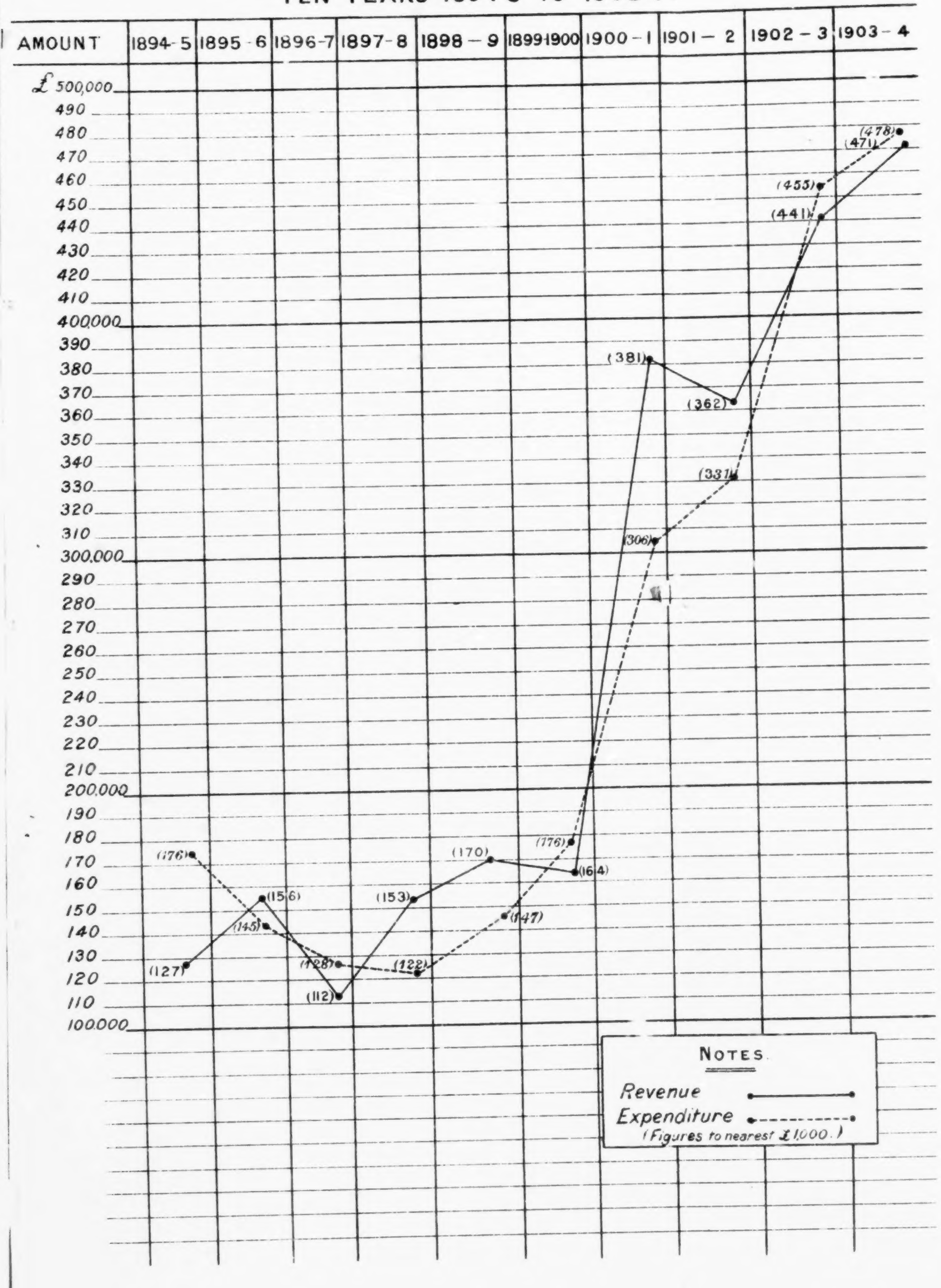
10. The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the year:—

	Per cent.
United Kingdom	37·7
British Colonies	14·8
Foreign Countries	47·5

The gross value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the country is £356,024, of which £213,731 is the value of palm kernels; of the latter amount, £147,884 was exported to Germany, and this fact places that country at the head of purchasers of the produce of the country.

Of the import trade 69·1 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, 7 per cent. from British West African Colonies, and 23·9 per cent. from foreign countries. Germany sends 11·25 per cent. of the imports from foreign countries, and America, 6·84 per cent.

CHART SHOWING ACTUAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE TEN YEARS 1894-5 TO 1903-4.



The following table shows in detail the direction of trade for the five years 1900-4. The explanations which follow it account for the most noticeable fluctuations:—

—	Imports.				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	425,245	411,578	455,922	514,970	495,597
British Colonies ...	13,211	10,857	21,893	39,658	50,340
France	7,819	4,236	5,843	7,018	2,826
Germany	51,987	60,601	70,681	72,559	79,081
Holland	2,516	2,959	6,103	8,324	10,113
Teneriffe and Grand Canary.	1,640	1,841	2,622	6,487	7,187
Dakar	1,479	193	721	1,121	1,718
°Windward Coast ...	6,097	10,649	7,573	9,045	11,237
*Leeward Coast ...	2,211	2,962	3,154	2,660	13,072
Liberia	589	378	2,191	839	353
America	44,374	40,151	47,218	36,564	43,638
Other Countries ...	1,103	1,880	2,013	1,581	2,074
Total	558,271	548,285	625,934	700,826	717,236

—	Exports.				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	125,559	87,587	123,272	127,882	182,956
British Colonies ...	59,275	46,228	73,661	58,170	71,586
France	10,584	7,990	6,208	2,837	539
Germany	112,076	118,070	143,314	145,410	147,884
Rufisque	9,395	5,674	6,413	8,560	5,231
Dakar	5,621	8,668	11,986	19,319	24,802
Goree	4,674	7,130	4,071	3,761	4,244
Boulama	6,360	1,277	357	1,003	473
Bissao	12,470	7,279	6,405	8,313	6,386
°Windward Coast ...	9,306	6,946	10,800	16,053	22,125
*Leeward Coast ...	4,555	1,325	11,158	15,878	11,075
Liberia	2,241	5,062	5,165	10,677	6,827
Other Countries ...	355	773	707	768	742
Total	362,471	304,009	403,517	418,631	484,870

° The terms "Windward Coast" and "Leeward Coast" may be taken to mean those places on the West Coast of Africa lying respectively to the North and South of Sierra Leone and not included in the above list.

IMPORTS.

United Kingdom.

The decrease in the value of imports from the United Kingdom in 1901, as compared with 1900, was due to the larger importations of military stores in 1900. The figures were:—£22,007 in 1900, and £6,971 in 1901. The decrease in 1904, as compared with 1903, was caused by a falling off in the importation of cotton goods in the former year, for the reason already stated earlier in this report. *Vide* paragraph 8.

British Colonies.

The falling off in the value of imports from British Colonies in 1901, as compared with 1900, was due to abnormally large importations of native-made cloths from Lagos in 1900. A reason for this is probably to be found in the check which the local industry received from the outbreak of 1898. The increases exhibited in the years 1902-4 were due to larger importations of specie from Lagos, the Gambia, and the Gold Coast by the Bank of British West Africa.

France.

The figures given in the return cannot be taken as representing the true state of the trade with France. There may not have been any marked increase, but it is doubtful if there has been any sensible decrease in the trade. Owing to there being no direct steam communication between the two countries, it has become increasingly the practice to import goods *viâ* Conakry. These goods are shown as importations from "Windward Coast," in which Conakry is included. It will be observed that a rise in the imports from France is followed by a fall in those from "Windward Coast," and *vice versâ.*

America.

The diminution in the imports from this country in 1901, as compared with the previous year was wholly due to larger importations of flour in 1900 to meet the demand caused by the shortage of the rice crop in that year. The latter crop was still suffering from the effects of the outbreak in 1898. Larger importations in lumber in 1902 account for the rise in that year, while the decline in 1903 was due to smaller importations of flour. The irregular arrival of sailing vessels, by which channel alone goods are imported from America, would account for any other slight fluctuations that may have occurred.

EXPORTS.

United Kingdom.

The marked falling off in the value of exports to the United Kingdom in 1901, compared with 1900, was due to a shrinkage in trade of the following articles:—Gum copal, £1,500; palm kernels, £18,000; rubber, £15,000. The country was just recovering from the effects of the rebellion, and the time of the people was no doubt largely taken up in farming operations. They would therefore have little opportunity for the gathering of the articles mentioned. The large increase in 1904 was caused by the inclusion in the exports of the value of bunker coal supplied to steamers (£40,000), and to an increase in the export of the following articles:—Palm oil, £2,500; palm kernels, £2,000; rubber, £8,500.

British Colonies.

The increase or decrease in the export trade with British Colonies is largely governed by any increase or decrease in the kola trade with Gambia. Of late years this trade has steadily increased. The increase in 1902 and 1904 over 1901 and 1903, respectively, was also due to large exportations of specie to the Gold Coast in 1902, and to the Gambia in 1904.

France.

The decrease in the value of exports to France in each of the five years is caused by the diminishing export of specie to that country, as the following figures will show:—

1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904
£ 8,505	£ 6,000	£ 5,400	£ 2,029	£ Nil.

Germany.

The annually increasing value of the exports to Germany coincides with the increase in the value of palm kernels exported from the Colony. Germany is, as previously explained, the chief purchaser of that article.

SPECIE.

11. The statistics relating to the import and export of specie seem to indicate that, previous to 1903, the Colony was, to some extent, paying its way by means of bullion shipments. That this is not improbable is shown by the fact that during the years 1898 (date of outbreak) and 1899, the gross value of the imports exceeded that of the exports by, approximately, 100

per cent., and that the exports of specie greatly exceeded the imports of specie:—

Year.	Exports of Specie.	Imports of Specie.
	£	£
1900	44,491	5,119
1901	38,577	1,878
1902	77,341	30,145
1903	77,330	36,238
1904	77,875	83,086

It will be noticed from the above that, during the period above mentioned, 1904 was the first year in which the imports of specie exceeded the exports, and that the value of the exports of specie for the four preceding years exceeded the imports by an annual amount of, approximately, £40,000. An explanation which partially accounts for the large excess of the exports over the imports during the period, is that the Bank of British West Africa had not in 1900 been long established in the country, and that the small import traders continued to discharge their obligations abroad by shipping specie instead of by remittances.

The only bank carrying on business in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa. This institution imported during 1904, £14,600 in gold, and continued its policy of exporting to the Mint all worn silver coins. There is some reason for supposing that considerable quantities of gold are exported by some traders in payment for consignments, and in preference to remittances by bank or mercantile drafts.

SHIPPING.

12. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,334 (tonnage 1,593,914). Of this total 921 vessels (tonnage 1,280,091) were British.

The following table shows the shipping entered and cleared in each of the five years 1900-4:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Number	Tonnage.	Number	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1900 ...	596	12,966	817	1,277,967	1,413	1,290,933
1901 ...	444	17,069	787	1,232,739	1,232	1,249,808
1902 ...	638	14,416	888	1,453,572	1,526	1,467,938
1903 ...	359	11,406	981	1,676,951	1,340	1,688,357
1904 ...	426	14,652	908	1,581,262	1,334	1,595,914

The decrease in the shipping in 1904, as compared with 1903, is attributable to the exclusion of the Port of Freetown from the itinerary of those vessels of the British and African Steam Navigation Company and of the African Steamship Company which run on the south coast express service, and also to the withdrawal of the passenger boats of the Woermann Line which called here in the previous year. The passenger trade of this Colony is, however, still amply provided for by the other boats of Messrs. Elder, Dempster, and Company, and by the steamers of the Belgian Company which run to the Congo.

AGRICULTURE.

13. As pointed out in previous reports, agriculture is backward, and the best and most profitable results from the land are not generally obtained in the Colony or Protectorate. The cultivation of the land on the rotation of crops principle is not followed by the native, with one or two exceptions, and the efforts of the more intelligent individuals only bring out into stronger relief the wasteful methods which are generally followed. These consist in clearing the land of trees and bush by cutting them down about two feet from the ground, the roots being left in the ground. When dry, the bush is burnt, and the ground is considered ready for planting; no tilling is done. After the crop has been reaped, the land is allowed to lie fallow for from three to seven years before it is again planted. It will readily be understood that good results cannot be looked for from such a system, and that the labour devoted each year to the clearing of fresh land is, to a great extent, wasted. The system is harmful in other ways also, for it is resulting in the rapid deforestation of the country, and the destruction of many valuable economic trees and plants. There is no doubt that the falling off in the quantity and quality of rubber produced in the country is almost entirely due to the system followed by the people in clearing the land for cultivation.

With the exception of the Waterloo district, 20 miles from Freetown, but little progress has been made in planting kola, cocoa, and other forms of permanent cultivation, and even in this district the progress made leaves much to be desired. The chief difficulty which dissuades farmers from devoting their attention to permanent cultivation, is the risk that the young plants may be destroyed, possibly after several years of labour, by bush fires. Bush fires devastate large areas both in the Colony and the Protectorate, and the only remedy appears to be to allow the bush (*i.e.*, indigenous wild trees) to grow up in belts traversing the country in every direction, and thus afford barriers to arrest the bush fires when they arise.

Ginger.

No statistics are available to show the area under cultivation of this article, but judging from the quantity exported, the area is yearly increasing, in spite of the continuous decline in the price of the commodity. The cultivation of ginger is confined almost entirely to the Colony. The price realised in 1904 was the lowest for some years.

Cotton.

The cultivation of this plant, a species of which is indigenous to the country, has been carried on on a small scale by the natives from time immemorial. The lint produced is not of good quality, and the quantity hitherto grown has been only sufficient to supply the needs of the natives, who weave it into a coarse cloth. Strenuous efforts have, however, been made within the last two or three years to induce the natives to extend the cultivation of the plant, and by improved methods of cultivation and the introduction of better varieties of seed to increase the output and improve the quality. Cotton experts have been sent out by the British Cotton Growing Association, and the latter have leased from one of the chiefs at Moyamba, in the Ronietta district of the Protectorate, an area comprising 10,000 acres of land, adjacent to the railway, on which to establish a cotton farm. A considerable portion of this area has been placed under cultivation, but the crop for 1904 was not satisfactory. In addition to growing their own cotton, the Association purchase all the cotton they can obtain from the natives at 1*d*. per lb. for seed cotton. A cotton gin has been imported, and, at the date of this report, has been erected at Moyamba. The export of cotton in 1904 amounted to 13 tons, of the value of £378, of which the greater portion was shipped by the Association. By an arrangement made in 1904 between the Association and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the former receive a grant-in-aid from the Colony of £1,500 per annum for three years, the Association on their part agreeing to expend during the same period not less than £10,000 per annum in the cultivation of cotton. All machinery and implements for the Association are carried freight-free by the railway, and all cotton purchased or grown by the Association is brought down to Freetown free of charge.

Coffee.

Native coffee of excellent quality is grown in the Colony, but the price obtainable for it in European markets, where it has to compete with the Brazilian-grown article, is too low to encourage its shipment; all that is grown is consumed locally. There are two classes of coffee grown, viz., the

Liberian, and that known as Sierra Leone coffee; it is doubtful whether the flavour and quality of the latter is fully appreciated by the home market; the bean is small and yields coffee of delicious flavour.

Rice.

This is a staple article of food of the people, and is of fine quality, being preferred both by Europeans and natives to the imported Indian rice. Only two-thirds of the quantity consumed in the country has hitherto been grown locally, but as the area under cultivation continues to increase, it is possible that, with a continuation of peaceful government, the Protectorate will, in a few years, be able to supply local requirements and have a surplus for export. There is a correspondence between the quantity of flour imported and the rice crop; thus, in 1900, when the Protectorate had hardly recovered from the effects of the disturbances, more flour was imported than in any subsequent year.

Kola.

Large quantities of kola are grown in the Protectorate and a ready sale at remunerative prices is found for the nuts locally and in the neighbouring Colonies.

Fibres.

The bamboo palm, *Raphia vinifera*, from which the piassava of commerce is obtained, and several species of jute and other valuable fibres are indigenous to the country, and are found in almost unlimited quantities.

BOTANICAL STATION.

14. At the beginning of the year under review, there were two botanical stations in the Colony, one in Freetown and the other at Songo. The station at Songo was closed at the end of the year, the results achieved by it being quite incommensurate with the cost of its upkeep.

III.—LEGISLATION.

15. Eighteen Ordinances were passed through the Legislative Council during the year. Of these, seven introduced new legislation, nine were amending Ordinances, and two were consolidation Ordinances. The latter were "The Post Office Consolidation Ordinance" and "The Supreme Court Ordinance," and represent a substantial advance towards a revision of the laws, as by them 31 of the older laws were codified.

IV.—EDUCATION.

16. The examinations for 1904 have only been recently concluded, so that the report of the Inspector of Schools for 1903 is the latest one available, and it is from this report that the figures given below are obtained.

The number of assisted schools in the Colony at the close of 1903 was 72, divided as follows:—

Church of England	34
Wesleyan	20
United Methodist Free Church	9
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion ...	4
Roman Catholic	2
Other Schools	3
	72

The number of pupils on the rolls of these schools was 8,223, and the average attendance was 5,977. These figures show an increase over those for 1902, when the schools numbered 71 and the roll number and average attendance were 8,068 and 5,835, respectively.

The grant-in-aid paid by the Government amounted in 1904 to £1,519 4*s*. 11*d*.

The result of the examination in 1903 shows that a slight improvement has taken place in the schools, as compared with previous years, but the difficulty in obtaining trained teachers is just as acute as ever, and it is to be feared that until this difficulty is overcome by some system whereby the salaries of the teachers will be increased and their position improved, it will not be practicable to obtain the services of those who are best qualified to teach. At present, qualified teachers, whose services would, under more favourable circumstances, be available to strengthen and improve the teaching staff of the schools, prefer to seek employment in Government Departments and mercantile establishments both here and in the Colonies down the coast, where remuneration is higher and where their chances of improving their position are brighter.

In 1900, arrangements were made with the authorities of Fourah Bay College for the training of teachers for the elementary schools. The result up to the present has been disappointing; only 19 students have passed through the college, and of these, only eight obtained certificates as teachers. The failure of the system cannot be attributed to any fault on the part of the College authorities, and it is due entirely to the poor inducement which is held out to those who, were the prospects better, would gladly adopt the teaching profession.

In addition to Fourah Bay College, a training class for teachers has been started in connection with the Wesleyan High School. There were eight students attending this class at the end of 1904.

SECONDARY.

17. There are six schools for the higher education of boys and girls. Of these, two belong to the Church Missionary Society, two to the Wesleyan Society, one to the Roman Catholic Mission, and one is a private enterprise.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

18. Fourah Bay College, under the control of the Church Missionary Society, offers to those who can afford it the means of obtaining a higher education. It is affiliated with Durham University, and students of the College may proceed to the degrees in arts and theology. Three scholarships, of the value of £40 per annum and others of a less value, are given yearly. Prizes in Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and for English essay are also awarded.

During the year nine degrees in arts and theology were conferred. At the close of 1904 there were 27 students in residence.

Attached to the College is a normal school for the training of teachers for the primary schools, for which the College receives an annual grant from the Government.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

19. This institution is carried on under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, and under European supervision. Its object, as the name implies, is to impart a technical education and training in applied mathematics and handicrafts. It performs a most useful work, the effect of which is now being seen.

It is from among the students of this school that the requirements of those Government Departments employing men with some technical knowledge and training, such as the Public Works Department and Railway, are supplied.

There are three classes in the school, viz.:—

(i.) Students who take the higher course of studies, comprising drawing, geometry, elementary trigonometry, mensuration, mechanics, and the theory of the various trades. Practical work in carpentry, land surveying, architecture, and civil engineering is also taught.

(ii.) Apprentices who are grounded in practical plane geometry, mensuration, and elementary building.

(iii.) Boys of slight education from the Mission Schools in the Colony and Protectorate who are taken as pupils for one year in the first instance with a view to their becoming apprentices at the end of that period.

Practical lessons are given each day in the workshops attached to the school, or on the buildings in course of construction by the school. Accommodation for students and apprentices is provided on the premises.

At the close of the year there were 15 students and apprentices on the roll, and over forty children attending the elementary schools are receiving instruction in plane geometry and free-hand drawing.

The school receives an annual grant of £120 from the Government.

MOHAMMEDAN SCHOOLS.

20. At the close of the year the number of pupils on the rolls of the four Mohammedan Schools was 842, with an average attendance of 579, being an increase of 175 and 137, respectively, on the numbers for the previous year.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining the services of trained Mohammedan teachers, a class was established in 1902 for the training of seven youths, who will eventually become teachers in these schools. Each of these boys receives a subsistence allowance from the Government at the rate of £10 per annum, and their parents or guardians have entered into bonds with the Government for their good behaviour. The bonds further provide that their services shall be available for teaching in the schools for at least one year after the completion of their studies.

The amount paid in grants to these schools in 1904 was £396.

The following table shows the number of pupils on the rolls and the average attendance at the four schools in 1904, as compared with 1903:—

Number of Schools.	1903.		1904.	
	No. on roll.	Average attendance.	No. on roll.	Average attendance.
4	667	442	842	579

During the year the teaching staff was increased by the appointment of an Arabic master.

21. The only schools in the Protectorate are those established in connection with Missionary Churches. The cost of a system of universal education in the Protectorate would be beyond the present financial resources of the Government; but a scheme has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State by which it is intended to educate the sons of some of the chiefs and principal men in the Protectorate.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

22. It has been arranged that the annual reports of the Principal Medical Officer should be supplied to the "Journal of Tropical Medicine," in order that certain matters of general interest may be published therein.

HOSPITALS, &c.

23. The Colonial Hospital in Freetown, containing five wards, provides accommodation for 66 patients. During the year there were 1,512 cases admitted, which, with the 58 cases remaining in the institution at the end of 1903, bring up the total number of patients treated in 1904 to 1,570; of these, 761 were cured, 476 were discharged relieved, 134 were discharged not improved, and 134 died; leaving 65 cases under treatment at the close of the year. There were 9,938 out-patients treated during the year.

Attached to the hospital is an obstetric ward. The number of persons admitted into this ward in 1904 was 51.

Besides the hospital in Freetown, there are hospitals and dispensaries at Sherbro, and at the headquarters of each of the five districts of the Protectorate. Dispensaries are also established at Waterloo and in all the principal villages in the Colony; drugs are issued from these dispensaries free of charge.

For the treatment of small-pox there is a hospital at Kissy, about four miles from Freetown. During the year 34 cases of this disease were admitted. Of this total, 20 were discharged cured, and 14 remained under treatment at the end of the year.

There is also a small-pox hospital at Sherbro. There were no admissions into this institution in 1904.

ASYLUMS.

Lunatic Asylum.

24. At the close of 1903 there were 123 patients under treatment in this institution. During the year under review there

were 22 cases admitted, *i.e.*, 12 males and 10 females, making a total of 145. Of these, nine were discharged and 22 died.

Included in the number of patients under treatment are persons of unsound mind from other British West Coast Colonies, who are sent here for treatment by the respective Governments.

There is a vegetable garden attached to the asylum, where the inmates may employ themselves in the growing of vegetables, for which a ready sale is obtained in Freetown.

INCURABLE DISEASE HOSPITAL.

25. In this hospital, situated also at Kissy, there were 109 cases remaining under treatment at the end of 1903. During the year the number of admissions was 236, bringing the total number of patients up to 345. Of this number 146 were discharged and 69 died. There remained in the hospital at the close of the year 130 cases.

NURSING HOME.

26. There were three patients in this institution at the close of 1903, and during the year 87 patients were admitted.

Five deaths occurred in the Home during the year, *i.e.*, three from malaria, one from cerebral hæmorrhage, and one from Bright's disease.

There was one patient remaining in the Home at the end of the year. Of the patients treated, 60 were suffering from malarial fever; of this number six also had blackwater symptoms. All the latter recovered.

SAVINGS BANK.

27. The operations of the Savings Bank continue to show a steady increase. In addition to the bank in Freetown, branches have been opened at Sherbro, Waterloo, and at the headquarters of the five Protectorate Districts.

The deposits during the year amounted to £37,390, and the withdrawals to £34,147. There was a balance of £62,112 to the credit of depositors at the close of the year.

The investments of Savings Bank monies at 31st December, 1904, amounted to £60,602 10*s.* 4*d.*

The Savings Bank is worked solely in conjunction with the Post Office, and therefore it is impossible to ascertain what would be the expenditure were it a separate department; interest is paid to the depositors at the rate of 2½ per cent., and the amount received in 1904 from investments of Savings

Bank monies was £2,123 2*s*., so that there is a substantial sum available to meet office expenses, and the value of that portion of the time of the postal staff which is given to Savings Bank work.

The following table shows the transactions of the Savings Bank for the five years 1900-4:—

Year.	Number of Branches.	Number of Depositors.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
			£	£	£
1900 ...	2	3,950	25,711	24,687	47,837
1901 ...	3	4,116	24,475	25,648	48,925
1902 ...	4	4,570	31,645	31,262	49,322
1903 ...	9	5,307	36,682	29,381	57,616
1904 ...	9	5,368	37,390	34,147	62,112

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

28. The duties and powers of the Police Force are confined to the Colony. The authorised strength of the force for the year was one European superintendent, one European inspector, and 252 native non-commissioned officers and men. Of this number, 12 constables, stationed in the Sherbro district, were paid from the funds of that district.

The men of the force stationed in the Sherbro and Waterloo districts of the Colony are armed with the Snider rifle. In Freetown arms are only used for drill, bank guards, money, and other escorts. The question of re-arming the force is under consideration.

Attached to the force, and included in its strength, is a detective branch, consisting of a sergeant and four constables. These men receive an allowance in lieu of clothing, but get no other allowances. This branch has done very good work during the year, having been successful in bringing many offenders to justice who would otherwise have escaped. It has also been instrumental in putting a stop to illicit spirit dealing.

During the rainy season, when drills are necessarily less frequent, advantage is taken to lecture the men of the police force on the prevention and detection of crime, the duties of police at fires, and police work generally.

The amount expended on the force in 1904 was £8,499.

In the Protectorate, the police duties are performed by "Court Messengers," and the amount estimated to be spent on this force in 1905 is £4,476.

(B) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

29. The number of indictable offences tried by the Supreme Court during the year was 67, an increase of one, as compared with the figures for 1903. Of these, 53 were convicted, 6 were acquitted and 8 cases fell through for want of prosecution. Included in the number of convictions were four cases for manslaughter.

There was one murder case, and the accused was acquitted.

The number of summary convictions in the Magistrate's Courts, including the Courts of the District Commissioners of Waterloo and Sherbro, was 1,158 in 1904, an increase of 76 over the figures for 1903. This addition is not due to any increase in crime, but is to be attributed to greater activity on the part of the police in the detection and punishment of it, more especially under the Harbour Ordinance.

In the Protectorate the chiefs try all minor offences between natives, and, consequently, there are no statistics relating to such offences. Serious crimes are tried before the Circuit Court. *See post* paragraph 43.

(C) PRISONS.

30. By law all persons sentenced to imprisonment for periods of six months or more are incarcerated in the prison in Freetown.

There are no statistics as to the number of persons sentenced to imprisonment in the Protectorate for periods under six months.

The number of persons received into the prison in Freetown during the year was 722, of which number 183 were received for safe custody awaiting trial and 539 were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The explanation given for the increase in the number of summary convictions also accounts for the increase in the number of persons received into the prison as compared with 1903, in which year the figures were respectively as follows:—597, 139, and 457. Of those sentenced to terms of imprisonment, 509 were men, 20 were women, and ten were juveniles.

The daily average number in prison during the year was 201 as compared with 216 in 1903. There were 146 admissions to hospital, the daily average on the sick list was eight, and the deaths during the year numbered 11. The health of the prisoners has been good.

The behaviour of the prisoners was satisfactory, there were 253 offences against prison discipline as against 1,102 in the previous year. Two prisoners were flogged in the course of the year for grave breaches of prison discipline.

Only labour of a useful and remunerative kind is performed by the prisoners.

There was one escape during the year and in this case the prisoner was soon re-captured.

In the manufacturing department good progress was made. The amount expended in the purchase of materials in 1904 was £673 7*s.* 10*d.* and the sum realized by the sale of the manufactured article to the Government Departments and private individuals amounted to £1,653 19*s.* 1½*d.*, being £537 more than in 1903.

The uniforms of the Frontier Force, police, court messengers, prison warders, office messengers, and railway officials are made by the prisoners, thus effecting a considerable saving in cost. Assessing the value of the prison labour employed in the tailoring branch of the establishment at the same figure as that at which outside labour could be employed, the result of the year's transactions in that branch alone represents a saving to the Government of £74.

Below is a table showing the earnings of each branch into which the department is divided:—

—	Tailoring.	Shoemaking.	Carpentry.	Washing.	Basket-making.	Stone-breaking.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Government Departments	1,067 15 7¼	34 8 9	72 13 0	—	29 1 8	—
Other than Government Departments.	353 7 6¼*	74 18 7†	—	2 0 0	—	19 12 0‡
Total	1,421 3 1½	109 7 4	72 13 0	2 0 0	29 1 8	19 12 0

* Includes amount received from sale of surplus serge.
† Repairing work principally.
‡ Sale of broken stones to Freetown Water Works.

In addition to the prison in Freetown there is a prison at Waterloo and one at Bonthe (Sherbro). During the year 45 prisoners underwent terms of imprisonment in the former and 63 in the latter prison.

The expenditure on the Prison Department for the year exclusive of the cost of materials purchased for the Manufacturing Department was £4,025.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

31. At the close of the last census (1901) the population of the Colony amounted to 76,655. It is not possible to state accurately what it was at the end of 1904, but assuming that it has increased in the same annual proportion as in the previous decade it may be approximately stated to have been 77,181 at the close of the year.

According to the Registration Returns there were 1,514 births in the Colony during the year and 1,860 deaths. Except in Freetown, however, where the provisions of the Registration Ordinance are complied with, the returns cannot be considered complete and are therefore useless for statistical purposes.

In Freetown the number of births was 602, equal to a rate of 17·46 per 1,000. The deaths amounted to 962, or 27·9 per 1,000 of the population.

No deaths occurred among the European Government officials and the sick rate was not high.

No statistics under this head are available for the Protectorate.

SANITATION.

32. The sanitary work of the town is in the hands of the Corporation and is carried out under the immediate supervision of the Principal Medical Officer who is also Medical Officer of Health for the city. There is a sanitary department which superintends the cleaning of the town and carries out a regular and systematic inspection of all yards.

The surface drainage of the town is progressing as rapidly as means will allow. During 1904 a sum of £1,588 was expended on this important work.

In the course of the year Dr. Prout delivered a series of lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, on sanitation. The various forms of diseases common to the country and ascribable to the use of impure water or food or to living amongst dirty surroundings and under insanitary conditions were especially dealt with. The lectures were largely attended and were followed with much intelligent interest. These lectures were printed and copies were distributed for the use of the public. An examination on the subjects dealt with in the lectures was subsequently held and the result was most gratifying, plainly showing that Dr. Prout's efforts had been appreciated, and that his remarks had been understood. Prizes were awarded to the successful competitors, and it is intended that the subject of sanitation should be added to the curriculum of Government aided schools.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

33. The observations recorded at the Military Hospital, situated at a height of 224 feet above mean sea level, show that the rainfall for the year was 158·16 inches. It fell short of that for 1903 by 3·85 inches and is the lowest recorded for some years.

The highest monthly rainfall was in July in which month 42·67 inches were measured. The rainfall for the five months June to October amounted to 143·08 inches.

The highest shade temperature recorded was 95 on the 7th of February and the lowest 66·4 on the 15th of January.

The following table shows the rainfall for the year:—

Month.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
January	1	·70	·70	30th
February	—	—	—	—
March	3	1·74	1·31	17th
April	6	2·56	·63	22nd
May	13	4·59	1·15	30th
June	22	24·58	5·94	4th
July	23	42·67	6·73	13th
August	27	41·00	6·93	5th
September	23	22·83	5 84	4th
October	21	12·00	2·13	25th
November	14	4·37	1 08	18th
December	1	1·12	1·12	22nd
Total ...	154	158·16	—	—

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

34. The revenue of the Post Office for the year amounted to £8,698* (including £2,123 2*s.* 0*d.* the amount of interest derived from investments of Savings Bank monies) and the expenditure (including £1,259 interest due to depositors in the Savings Bank for the year 1903) to £8,316. Compared with 1903 these figures show an increase of £1,346 in the expenditure. The revenue was the same as in 1903. This is due to the diminished demand by dealers for the King Edward VII. stamps which were issued in 1903; the stamp sales being £200 less in 1904 than in the previous year.

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* This revenue includes the proceeds of stamps used in deeds, court documents, &c.

The increase in expenditure is due to increases in the staff, the opening of more district post offices, increased expense of "sea postage," increased "transit postage" and increase in the expenditure for conveyance of mails within the Colony and Protectorate.

The following comparative statement shows the transactions of the Department with the countries abroad for the years 1903 and 1904:—

Year.	Received from abroad.		Sent abroad.		Money Orders.	
	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Amount received from abroad.	Amount sent abroad.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1903 ...	293,160	12,362	257,750	3,023	7,778 19 0	24,870 15 2
1904 ...	311,133	13,863	243,414	3,318	9,301 15 2	34,800 12 4

The total number of postal packets, including the internal service dealt with by the Department during the year amounted to 773,726 an increase of 22,961 over the number dealt with in the previous year.

The Customs duty collected on parcels during the year was £1,003 5*s.* 6*d.*, and the figures for 1903 were £1,003 17*s.* 5*d.*

The postal order system was introduced during the year. Orders to the value of £615 16*s.* 0*d.* were issued, and orders amounting to £182 6*s.* 5*d.* were paid.

The Colony's share of commission on money orders issued in 1904 was £552 16*s.* 3*d.*, an increase of £36 10*s.* 3*d.* over the figures for last year.

INLAND SERVICES.

35. The transactions between the General Post Office in Freetown and the several district post offices continue to steadily increase.

The following statement shows the transactions for the year as compared with 1903:—

Year.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Money Orders.
			£ s. d.
1903	180,878	3,771	14,324 5 8
1904	192,831	3,970	24,962 17 6

Exclusive of the office at Freetown there were at the close of 1904 forty-five branch post offices and thirteen money order offices in the Colony and Protectorate.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

36. Telegraphic communication with the outside world is maintained by the lines of the African Direct Telegraph Company which connect this Colony with the Gambia on the north, from whence communication with the United Kingdom is obtained *viâ* Saint Vincent and Madeira. Communication is also established with Europe over the Spanish and French Government lines *viâ* Conakry, Dakar, Saint Louis, Teneriffe, and Cadiz. On the south the lines of the African Direct Telegraph Company afford a means of communication with England *viâ* Accra, Cape Town, and Saint Helena. There is also direct cable communication with Ascension from whence messages may be despatched to other parts of the world.

The inland telegraph service is worked in connection with the Railway Department and is extended as the work of constructing the railway progresses. When complete the terminus of the line will be 221 miles from Freetown. Messages may now be sent over a distance of 213 miles. The rate charged for messages is sixpence for 12 words or under, and a half-penny for every additional word in excess of 12. This line is much appreciated by the public to whom it affords a means of rapid communication with the interior.

There is only one telephone line. It has been constructed by the War Department for military purposes, and is not available for public use. Connections with this line have been made between Tower Hill Barracks and Government House, the Secretariat, the Police Station, and the Post Office.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

37. During the year the sum of £3,385 was spent on repairs to Government buildings and furniture.

The expenditure on roads and bridges amounted to £1,041.

Under Public Works Extraordinary various works were carried out at a total cost of £4,720. The most important were:—Drainage system and reconstruction of streets £1,588; improvements to Kissy Asylum £408; Secretariat buildings alteration and additions £1,011; Customs shed £410; Matron's quarters, Colonial Hospital, £422; additions and repairs to Government House £380.

In the Protectorate various public works were carried out at a cost of £1,893. Of this amount the sum of £631 was expended on barracks and officers' quarters; £882 on roads and £291 on repairs to existing buildings.

WATER-WORKS.

38. The amount expended on the Freetown Water-works at 31st December amounted to £22,262 10*s.* 3*d.*

The work of laying pipes and erecting drinking fountains has been pushed forward and at the close of the year the scheme had been nearly completed.

X.—RAILWAYS.

OPEN LINES.

39. On the 31st December, 1904, the length of line open for traffic was 142 miles of which six miles were opened during the year.

The earnings of the railway for the year amounted to £35,642 and the expenditure amounted to £40,097.

The following table shows the receipts for the last three years:—

Year.	Traffic Receipts.		Construction Materials.	Total.
	Coaching and Sundries.	Goods.		
	£	£	£	£
1902	12,598	2,407	6,301	21,306
1903	16,349	3,591	16,680	36,620
1904	22,822	5,546	7,274	35,642

Of the £22,822, receipts from coaching and sundries, £8,970 represents freight on country produce brought down to Freetown and £11,855 receipts from passengers. The sum of £5,546 shown under goods is solely in respect of freight on goods sent up country. It will be seen that a considerable advance has been made in the earnings of the line from purely traffic receipts, and there is every indication that the increase under this head will be still more noticeable when the results for the current year have to be reviewed.

The line has now reached a rich palm-bearing district and large quantities of kernels are now being brought down to

Freetown for shipment. The principal mercantile firms in the Colony have opened branch establishments in the Protectorate at various points along the line and this, coupled with the construction of roads as feeders to the railway to afford an easy means for the native to transport his goods to the nearest centre at which they may be disposed of, must tend to considerably augment the traffic returns.

At the close of the year the rolling stock consisted of 54 passenger and 103 goods vehicles. There were 18 locomotives.

The train mileage run was 157,854 miles, the cost of running was 8·02*d.* per freight ton mile and 0·45*d.* per gross ton mile. The cost of coal consumed amounted to £2,845.

The revision of the rates is under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION.

40. The work of construction has been pushed on rapidly and at the end of the year the earth-works had reached Baiima, the terminus of the line. Forty-three and a half miles of track were completed in the course of the year. The bridge over the Sewa river (718 feet long) commenced in November, 1903, and that over the river Male (234 feet in length) were finished during the year, and the bridge over the Moa river (633 feet long) was begun. Twenty temporary bridges were replaced by permanent bridges of steel, completing the railway up to 136¼ miles with steel girder bridges.

Station buildings have been erected at all stations up to Hangha, 187½ miles from Freetown. Deviations from the original line have been made at certain points. The object of these deviations was to eliminate the 1 in 35 grades so that the maximum grade of the line should not exceed 1 in 50.

A service of trains under the control of the Construction Department now runs from Bo (136¾ miles) to the Moa river (213 miles).

It is expected that the line will be completed about the end of July, 1905.

XI.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

IMPERIAL.

41. The strength of the Imperial Garrison at 31st December, 1904, was 121 officers and 2,346 non-commissioned officers and men made up as follows:—

—	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Infantry	80	1,832
Artillery	17	454
Engineers	3	45
Royal Army Medical Corps ...	10	4
Army Service Corps	3	—
Army Ordnance Corps	1	8
Army Pay Corps	1	2
Civil Surveyor	1	—
Civil Armourer	—	1
General Staff	5	—
	121	2,346

COLONIAL.

The strength of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force at the close of 1904 was 17 officers and 527 non-commissioned officers and men. Attached to the force, but not included in the above figures, are five civilian clerks.

The cost, which amounted in 1904 to £22,566, is borne by the funds of the Colony.

XII.—CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

42. His Excellency Sir Charles King-Harman left the Colony in June on leave of absence preparatory to his assuming the Government of Cyprus to which he had been promoted.

Mr. Leslie Probyn, C.M.G., who had been appointed to succeed him in this Colony arrived in October from Southern Nigeria.

In the interval between Sir Charles King-Harman's departure and Mr. Probyn's assumption of the Government, the affairs of the Colony were administered first by Mr. Haddon Smith, the Colonial Secretary, and afterwards by Brigadier-General Frank Graves, Commanding the Troops.

XIII.—PROTECTORATE.

43. That part of the revenue which is collected in the Protectorate consists chiefly of the proceeds of the house tax, and spirit, store, and hawkers' licences. Each of these sources of revenue shows substantial increases.

Circuit Court.

This Court was constituted under an Ordinance passed in 1903 and is presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court. It supersedes the old Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs, and tries all criminal cases and civil cases in which the value involved exceeds £50. In the trial of criminal cases in which a native is concerned the judge is assisted by two or more native chiefs who sit with him as assessors and who are chosen from among chiefs nominated for the purpose by the Governor. The aid of the chiefs may also be called in by the judge in all civil cases in which he may consider that their assistance will be of value.

Three regular circuits were held and there was one special session at Moyamba for the trial of persons accused of being concerned in Leopard murders.

The period occupied by the Court in sitting and travelling extended over 193 days. The number of criminal cases tried was 69. The number of prisoners tried was 120, and there were ten civil actions heard.

The following table shows the number and description of criminal cases tried, and the result:—

Description of Case.	Number of Cases.	Number of Accused.	Convicted.	Acquitted or otherwise disposed of.
Arson	4	4	2	2
Assault	2	9	9	—
Found in possession of Borfima.	2	8	8	—
Embezzlement	2	2	2	—
False Pretence	6	6	5	1
Forgery	1	1	1	—
Larceny and Receiving ...	6	7	6	1
Murder	9	42	30	12
Rape	7	7	2	5
Robbery with violence ...	7	7	6	1
Slave Dealing	10	10	8	2
Witchcraft pretended ...	3	3	3	—
Wounding	3	5	3	2
Other offences	7	9	6	3
Total	69	120	91	29

Of the nine cases of murder tried five were in the Ronietta district. In these five cases 37 prisoners were tried and 28 were convicted of murder in connection with the Human Leopard Society.

The experience gained in the working of the Court has shown the advisability of appointing a Commissioner of the Court to act as judge when the Circuit Judge is unable to proceed to some district where an immediate trial is desirable. The necessary amendment to the Ordinance is now engaging the attention of the Government. It has also shown that the District Commissioners are quite capable of prosecuting provided the forms and technicalities of the Supreme Court are not too strictly adhered to.

In his report on the work of the Court for the year the Acting Circuit Judge, Mr. Packard, sums up as follows:—

> "I cannot help thinking that the Circuit Court as designed by the Ordinance is an efficient tribunal and a safeguard of the liberties of the people, provided that the judge keeps ever before him the necessity of constant study of native institutions and idiosyncrasies.
>
> The solemnity of the proceedings impresses the natives, and I have been greatly struck by the zeal and intelligence shown by the paramount chiefs who sit with the judge and give their advice on native evidence and customs.
>
> I incline to the opinion that the Circuit Court may do some good in the Protectorate in the way of reforming the Native Courts as it affords to the chiefs an opportunity of observing the procedure of English Courts, which is certainly fairer to both sides than that obtaining in Native Courts, and does not offer the same opportunities for corruption and extortion."

The Government of the country is carried out through the chiefs. The authority of the chiefs is upheld and every encouragement is given to them to adhere to their native customs and laws, provided these are not repugnant to civilized ideas of justice.

The population of the country is small and in some of the districts labour is scarce. Under the settled form of government which now exists the causes which militated against even a normal growth of the population have been removed, and there is reason to believe that it is gradually but steadily increasing. No census has ever been held.

The registering of houses in the towns of the several districts is rapidly proceeding, but years must elapse before a complete registration will have been effected.

Frequent patrols were made by the District Commissioners. On these patrols disputes concerning boundaries and other matters are invariably settled whenever possible.

In the Koinadugu and Karene Districts large numbers of cattle are raised. The latter district is also rich in kola trees and large quantities of the nuts find their way to Freetown for export. In the Bandajuma, Ronietta, and Panguma Districts large areas of palm trees are to be found, and it is from these districts that most of the kernels shipped from Freetown come. Quantities of kernels from the first-named district also find their way to Bonthe from which port they are exported. Rubber is found in all the districts, but the bulk of it comes from Bandajuma, Panguma, and Koinadugu. Rice is extensively cultivated in Karene, Ronietta, Panguma, and Bandajuma, the surplus, after providing for the wants of the people in these districts, finding its way to Freetown where it is readily disposed of.

XIV.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

44. There is little to add under this head to the information which is contained in the other portions of this report. It may not be out of place, however, to emphasise the fact that it is on the development of the Protectorate that the commercial prosperity of the Colony in a great measure depends. The construction of the railway, the making of roads as feeders to the line thus affording the people an easy means of getting their produce to market, the establishment by the leading mercantile firms of branches along the line in three of the most fertile and populous districts, and the consequent impetus to trade which is given thereby must re-act on the import and export returns of the Colony.

Already the traffic returns of the railway show an appreciable increase, and these must further expand as the trade in the Protectorate increases.

E. Evelyn,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat,
13th July, 1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 and 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903-1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903-1904
445	Leeward Islands...	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
455	British Honduras	"
456	Seychelles	"
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
458	Straits Settlements	"
459	Southern Nigeria	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 511.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 460.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1906.

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No. 511.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1904, see No. 460.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
19th October, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the Blue Book for 1905. The report discloses an increase in the exports which, although moderate, shows that the Colony will be able to pay, without strain, the Interest and the Sinking Fund on the Loan of 1904.

2. During the year, the scheme of my predecessor, Sir Charles King-Harman, for the establishment of a health station on the hills overlooking Freetown was brought into full effect; the report shows how very beneficial the change has been.

3. The Sierra Leone Railway was completed in August, and it is satisfactory to note that the working expenses were more than covered by the receipts.

4. In forwarding the report for 1904, I stated that one great difficulty in the way of progress was the want of labour organisation. Freetown is overcrowded, labour is not sufficiently plentiful in the rich country surrounding the last 80 miles of the railway, and, in many parts of the Protectorate, difficulties arise because labour has not been re-organised since the abolition of slavery. In this matter no improvement took place during the year, but two laws were passed (The Protectorate Native Law Ordinance and The Headman Ordinance) which may, to a slight extent, have a healthy effect.

I have, &c.,
L. PROBYN,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lord Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR, 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The year 1905 closed with a deficit of £13,967. In view of the fact that a loan of £1,250,000 was authorised and raised in 1904, it is important that this report should make clear the reason for this deficit, especially as there have been substantial surpluses during the preceding four years. During the year it was necessary, with the concurrence of the Liberian Government, to send an expedition into Liberia; the cost of this expedition, including railway transport, has been over £10,000, the greater part of which had to be met during the year, and is, therefore, shown in the expenditure for the year. In February, owing to the large amount of surplus funds in the hands of the Crown Agents, it was decided to repay to the War Office the whole of the balance of the debt incurred during the rebellion of 1898-1899; this debt originally amounted to £44,766, and the balance paid off during 1905 was £24,766. Had the debt to the War Office remained unpaid there would have been a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £10,799, and, but for the abnormal expenditure in military operations outside the Colony and Protectorate, this surplus would nearly reach £20,000. The year 1905 will also be noteworthy in future as being that during which the Sierra Leone Railway (main line) was completed, and that it was the first year in which the railway, exclusive of construction transport, was able to earn more than its working expenses.

REVENUE.

2. The receipts for 1905 amounted to £281,523, being £41,051 more than the revenue for 1904. The nett revenue for the five years ending 31st December, 1905, is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1901	192,138
1902	205,767
1903	237,534
1904	240,472
1905	281,523

3. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

—	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	132,799	143,538	10,739	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	3,556	3,762	206	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,331	5,297	—	34
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, Reimbursements-in-aid.	6,695	6,123	—	572
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	8,698	10,240	1,542	—
Rents on Government Property ...	284	298	14	—
Interest	1,827	9,080	7,253	—
Miscellaneous receipts	2,238	626	—	1,612
Railway	35,642	57,786	22,144	—
Land Sales	164	82	—	83
Protectorate	43,238	44,691	1,453	—
Total	240,472	281,523	43,351	2,301

4. The principal increases and decreases shown in the above table are thus explained:—

Customs.

Increased duties on spirits and tobacco due to the operation of Ordinance No. 16 of 1904, and the growth of trade.

Port and Harbour Dues.

The increase under this head is due to an increase in the shipping trade.

Post Office and Savings Bank.

The money order, postal order, and parcel post business of the Department has greatly expanded, and large sales of stamps to collectors and dealers were also made during the year.

Interest.

The increase under this head is due to the interest received from the Crown Agents on account of the balance of Loan Funds in their hands advanced by them at call at Bank rate.

Railway.

The commercial traffic receipts increased in 1905, and in addition the railway was credited with full fares and rates for all Government passengers and goods carried by it.

Protectorate.

Increased receipts on account of house tax, store licences, and hawkers' licences account for the increase under this head.

Licences and Internal Revenue.

The receipts under this head were affected by the operation of the District Boat Licence Abolition Ordinance (No. 18 of 1905).

Fees of Court, &c.

The chief cause of the decrease was that less water was taken by ships on account of the small-pox epidemic which prevailed in the early part of the year.

Miscellaneous Receipts.

Overpayments in previous years are now credited to their respective Votes, and the receipts under this head have thereby been reduced.

EXPENDITURE.

5. The expenditure for the five years ending 31st December, 1905, was as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1901	173,457
1902	184,940
1903	206,464
1904	237,892
1905	295,490

The large increase in the expenditure is due to interest, larger railway expenditure caused by the completion of the railway, and to the debt due to the War Office having been paid off. The excess of the expenditure over revenue has been explained at the beginning of this report.

6. The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with 1904:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	45,709	49.153	3,444	—
Pensions	5,014	5,546	502	—
Governor and Legislature	3,771	3,674	—	97
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	3,314	3,493	179	—
Provincial Administration	1,846	1,874	28	—
Treasury	2,132	2,098	—	34
Customs Department	8,939	9,578	639	—
Audit Department	1,737	1,708	—	29
Port and Marine Department ...	1,097	1,074	—	23
Legal Department	4,944	5,177	233	—
Civil Police	8,499	8,551	52	—
Prisons	4,698	5,220	522	—
Medical Department	5,990	6,879	889	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,390	5,738	348	—
Nursing Home	730	670	—	60
Education	3,985	3,426	—	559
Transport	1,575	2,846	1,271	—
Miscellaneous Services	10,959	13,166	2,207	—
Post Office	8,316	8,626	310	—
Colonial Steamer	90	—	—	90
Botanic and Agricultural Department	1,842	878	—	964
Public Works Department	2,229	2,367	138	—
" " Recurrent	5,009	6,048	1,039	—
" " Extraordinary... ...	4,720	4,147	—	573
West African Frontier Force, Sierra Leone Battalion.	22,566	22,832	266	—
Sierra Leone Government Railway ...	40,097	52,095	11,998	—
Protectorate	32,664	68,626	35,962	—
Total	237,892	295,490	60,027	2,429

7. The reasons for the principal increases and decreases as shown in the above table are as follows:—

Charge on Account of Public Debt.

Payments on account of interest on the loan of £1,250,000 issued in June, 1904, account for the increase under this head.

Pensions.

More men were discharged from the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force, and received gratuities. The increase in the number of men permitted to take their discharge was to some extent due to the prolonged operations in Liberian territory and partly to the contemplated reduction in the strength of the force by one company, sanction for which was obtained towards the close of the year.

Colonial Secretary's Department.

The excess under this head is due to the appointment of a second Assistant Colonial Secretary in August, 1905.

Customs Department.

The expansion of trade necessitated an increase in the staff of this Department, and more overtime fees were earned by the officers.

Legal Department.

It was found necessary during the absence on leave of the Police Magistrate to employ a Barrister to perform the duties of the office.

Prisons.

The excess under this head is due to increased expenditure for provisions and necessaries, and to larger quantities of materials having been imported for the prison manufacturing branch.

Medical Department.

Owing to a severe outbreak of small-pox in the early part of the year, it was found necessary to employ additional professional assistance, and to incur other expenditure which could not be foreseen when the estimates for the year were framed.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Additional expenditure in connection with the outbreak of small-pox, already referred to, accounts for the excess under this head.

Transport.

From the 1st of April, 1905, the railway was credited with full rates for conveyance of Government passengers and goods. The additional expenditure was not provided for in the estimates for the year, and accounts for the excess under this head.

Miscellaneous Services.

The large excess under this head is due to the expenditure incurred in confining and checking the spread of the small-pox epidemic alluded to above. It also includes a portion of the grant to the British Cotton Growing Association, which remained unpaid at the close of 1904. Increased payments were also made on account of drawbacks, refunds of revenue, and cost of remittances.

Post Office.

Owing to the extension of the railway under the control of the Open Lines and to the establishment of branches by the various mercantile establishments in the district opened up, additional post offices with the necessary staff were provided to give increased postal facilities to merchants and traders in the transaction of their business.

Public Works Recurrent.

It was found necessary during the year to incur additional expenditure for maintaining and repairing the various public buildings and for keeping in good repair the various roads in the Colony.

West African Frontier Force.

An exceptional number of new officers joined the battalion during the year, and the outfit allowances to these officers caused an excess under this head.

Sierra Leone Government Railway.

The excess under this head is entirely due to the increased length of the line under the control of the Open Lines Department. 84 miles of line were handed over to open lines during the year.

Protectorate.

The large excess under this head is due to the repayment to the War Office of the sum of £19,766, being balance of the debt of £44,766 incurred by the Colony in the suppression of the rebellion in 1898 and 1899. It also includes a sum of £6,893 expenses incurred in connection with the expedition against the Kissi tribes in Liberian territory. The crediting of the railway with full rates for all Government passengers and goods sent up to the Protectorate, additional expenditure in connection with the establishment of the school for sons of Chief at Bo; on agricultural development and for extra assistance to District Commissioners, have also assisted towards this excess.

Education.

The saving under this head is due to the grant to Fourah Bay College for 1905 remaining unpaid at the close of the year.

Botanic and Agricultural Department.

The Botanic Station in Freetown was closed during 1905.

Public Works Extraordinary.

Less expenditure on new works was incurred during 1905.

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND PUBLIC DEBT.

Assets and Liabilities.

8. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1905, amounted to £104,523, as compared with £99,943 at the end of 1904.

The amount invested to the credit of the Colony at 31st December, 1905, was £90,084.

Public Debt.

9. The public debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,277,129, made up of—

Four per cent. ten-year convertible Bonds ...	£694,000
Three per cent. Inscribed Stock	583,129

10. The value of Bonds exchanged by the holders for Inscribed Stock was £66,700, of this amount £500 were exchanged, under the provisions of the Loan, at a premium of 5 per cent. and £67,100 at a premium of 4 per cent. The loss in premium by the conversion of the bonds was £2,709.

11. The nett proceeds of the Loan for £1,250,000, which at the end of 1904 amounted to £1,196,701 12*s.* 7*d.*, were further reduced during the year by £492, of which £473 was expended in the conversion of Bonds to Inscribed Stock, and £19 in payment of petty expenses connected with the raising of the Loan outstanding at the close of 1904. The amount available for expenditure on works was £1,196,209 8*s.* 1*d.*

12. At 31st December, 1905, the amount expended upon those works, the cost of which is payable from Loan Funds, amounted to £1,084,490 12*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of £111,718 15*s.* 5*d.* available for further works of improvement.

MUNICIPALITIES.

13. The revenue of the Freetown Municipal Board is chiefly derived from house rates and market dues. The Board manages the usual municipal affairs except the maintenance and repair of streets, the latter work being at present undertaken by the Government.

14. The rate on house property is 5 per cent. on the assessed annual rental value.

15. The subjoined table shows the revenue and expenditure, including the grant-in-aid for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	5,193	4,902
1902	5,192	5,418
1903	5,102	4,936
1904	6,567	7,685
1905	6,185	7,163

16. The Municipality has a debt of £2,800, being amount loaned to them by the Government for municipal works. For the redemption of this loan a Sinking Fund has been provided.

17. The expenditure on municipal works, paid for from this loan, is shown in the above table as ordinary expenditure, and the excess of expenditure over revenue in 1904 and 1905 is thus explained.

The Sherbro Municipal Board.

18. Bonthe, which previous to the year under review was included amongst those districts having Advisory Boards, was by Ordinance No. 10 of 1905 created a municipal area, and called the Port of Sherbro District. Within this district a Board has been established and called the Sherbro Municipal Board. The Board consists of eight members appointed by the Governor, and the Ordinance provides that, as far as practicable, the Governor shall endeavour to secure that the different interests of the people residing in the district shall be adequately represented on the Board.

19. The income of the Board consists of the proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees, which they are empowered to levy, together with £300 per annum from the Colonial House Tax collected within the Sherbro District.

20. Provision is made for the control of the Government over the Board Fund, and for the suspension of the Board by the Governor and for carrying on the duties of the Board in the event of such suspension taking place.

21. The Board did not come into existence until the latter end of the year, so that no report on its working is yet needed.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

22. The remarks and tables which follow, dealing with the imports and exports of the Colony and Protectorate during the year 1905, are supplementary to the published report of the Collector of Customs on the revenue and trade for the year.

23. The following table shows the imports classified so as to distinguish commercial imports from Government imports and specie for each of the five years 1901-5:—

Year.	Free imports.		Specific.		Ad valorem.		Total.		Specie.	Grand Total.
	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901 ..	42,198	4,607	122,121	8,682	297,573	71,226	461,892	84,515	1,878	548,285
1902 ..	46,048	5,112	142,405	4,213	338,148	59,863	526,601	69,188	30,145	625,934
1903 ..	45,735	13,825	145,163	2,292	368,463	89,110	559,361	105,227	36,238	700,826
1904 ..	60,054	8,436	151,878	1,292	354,812	57,678	566,744	67,406	83,086	717,236
1905 ..	52,143	3,612	143,229	2,358	395,771	22,205	591,143	28,175	83,330	702,648

24. Although the total value of imports for the year shows a nett decrease of £14,588 in comparison with that for 1904, it will be observed from the above table that the total value of commercial imports for 1905 exceeded that for 1904 by £24,399, and that the value of commercial imports upon which import duty is payable is in excess of the figures for the previous year by £32,310. The decrease in the total value of imports has, therefore, occurred under the heads "Free Imports" and "Government Imports." Under these heads there has been a falling off of £51,966. The decrease in the value of Government imports, which amounts to £44,055 of the £51,966 abovementioned, is due to the smaller quantity of railway material imported for construction owing to the completion of the work during the year.

25. In comparing the value of commercial imports for 1904 with that for 1903, it was shown that the ratio of increase observable in 1903 had not been maintained in 1904, and it was explained that this was due to the comparative slowness by which an increase in the exports is followed by a corresponding rise in the value of imports. The correctness of this view is amply borne out by the rise which has taken place in the value of commercial imports during the year under review, following on the increased value of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony in 1904.

26. The following table gives the principal articles of commercial

Articles.		1901.		1902.		1903.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£
1. Aerated and mineral water	Value.	—	3,419	—	3,116	—	2,942
2. Ale and porter	Doz. qts.	17,915	6,106	24,996	8,214	19,697	6,087
3. Ale and porter	Galls.	1,332	110	804	74	75	12
4. Apparel	Value.	—	11,088	—	10,735	—	9,541
5. Bags	No.	301,001	5,883	397,903	6,168	314,785	4,913
6. Beads	Value.	—	4,708	—	2,618	—	3,344
7. Beef and pork	Tons.	82	2,135	70	1,620	76	1,799
8. Books	Value.	—	4,194	—	4,741	—	5,103
9. Boots and shoes	„	—	4,076	—	4,536	—	4,965
10. Brandy	Galls.	4,063	1,932	3,099	1,450	3,186	1,722
11. Bread in barrels and half barrels.	Lbs.	323,559	2,772	327,648	2,828	302,196	2,862
12. Building materials	Value.	—	3 227	—	3,425	—	4,869
13. Bullocks	No.	409	2,018	285	1,333	306	1,613
14. Butter	Tons.	26	4,019	25	3,882	35	5,164
15. Candles	„	66	2,895	53	2,572	72	3,528
16. Cement	Value.	—	1,373	—	2,447	—	2,258
17. Cigars and manufactured tobacco.	Tons.	6	3,094	8	4,202	9	4,329
18. Coals and patent fuels	„	13,432	17,812	15,644	19,366	16,912	19,406
19. Cottons	Value.	—	137,696	—	171,180	—	182,119
20. Cutlery	„	—	2,216	—	2,297	—	2,285
21. Earthenware	„	—	4,738	—	4,465	—	5,693
22. Fish, preserved	„	—	1,736	—	1,905	—	2,584
23. Flour in barrels and half barrels.	Tons.	1,245	14,613	1,490	19,759	1,084	14,285
24. Furniture	Value.	—	3,532	—	3,665	—	3,225
25. Geneva	Galls.	133,659	19,164	123,951	18,457	113,882	17,018
26. Glassware	Value.	—	1,709	—	1,982	—	1,351
27. Haberdashery	„	—	21,949	—	24,917	—	30,681
28. Hats and caps	„	—	5,163	—	6,708	—	7,982
29. Hardware goods	„	—	15,669	—	16,153	—	16,961
30. Iron pots	„	—	2,083	—	2,288	—	2,842
31. Lard	Tons.	66	3,296	64	3,704	75	3,943
32. Lumber	Feet.	2,001,135	10,282	765,501	4,766	1,705,805	11,067
33. Machinery	Value.	—	926	—	1,348	—	1,688
34. Medicines and drugs	„	—	4,272	—	5,136	—	5,612
35. Musical instruments	„	—	2,051	—	1,526	—	1,918
36. Oil, kerosine	Galls.	232,032	5,484	213,039	5,604	219,356	6,522
37. Perfumery	Value.	—	3,445	—	3,435	—	3,886
38. Potatoes and onions	„	—	1,649	—	1,501	—	2,056
39. Provisions	„	—	12,438	—	12,647	—	16,350
40. Rice	Tons.	228	2,523	392	4,337	388	3,640
41. Rum	Galls.	145,786	10,372	175,785	11,908	184,161	12,156
42. Salt	Tons.	3,679	10,024	5,569	15,153	5,308	13,692
43. Silk goods	Value.	—	2,584	—	2,169	—	2,223
44. Soap	Tons.	122	1,686	112	1,576	112	1,632
45. Specie	Value.	—	1,878	—	27,145	—	36,238
46. Spirits, other	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—
47. Sugar, refined	Tons.	241	4,253	311	4,583	321	4,810
48. Sugar, unrefined	„	202	3,402	172	2,360	193	2,903
49. Tobacco, unmanufactured	„	451	20,219	658	29,626	709	34,095
50. Umbrellas	Value.	—	3,353	—	2,660	—	3,431
51. Whisky	Galls.	27,470	4,665	34,533	5,712	33,475	5,123
52. Wines, Claret	„	12,520	1,705	14,490	2,099	15,807	2,175
53. Wines, not claret	„	5,991	3,249	7,341	4,668	10,093	5,396
54. Woollen goods	Value.	—	7,720	—	7,213	—	10,417
Total value of principal and other articles of commercial imports.		—	463,770	—	553,746	—	595,599

imports, exclusive of specie, for each of the five years 1901–5 :—

1904.		1905.		Average Totals 1901-1904.		Increase		Decrease.		
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	£		£		£		£		£	
—	2,595	—	2,500	—	3,018	—	—	—	518	1
22,566	7,099	27,623	8,229	21,293	6,876	5,330	1,353	—	—	2
368	42	1,092	128	645	59	447	69	—	—	3
—	12,063	—	11,923	—	10,857	—	1,066	—	—	4
325,641	5,949	477,901	8,871	334,832	5,728	143,069	3,143	—	—	5
—	5,095	—	6,632	—	3,911	—	2,691	—	—	6
75	1,930	70	1,773	76	1,871	—	—	6	98	7
—	5,766	—	5,000	—	4,951	—	49	—	—	8
—	4,481	—	4,759	—	4,514	—	245	—	—	9
2,685	1,435	2,164	1,324	3,258	1,635	—	—	1,094	311	10
383,561	3,504	313,443	3,041	334,241	2,941	—	100	20,798	—	11
—	6,085	—	5,013	—	4,401	—	612	—	—	12
833	5,197	932	5,791	458	2,540	474	3,251	—	—	13
31	4,538	25	3,813	29	4,401	—	—	4	588	14
49	2,515	64	3,032	60	2,877	4	155	—	—	15
—	2,151	—	2,485	—	2,057	—	428	—	—	16
10	5,321	9	4,715	8	4,236	1	479	—	—	17
19,262	21,519	16,516	14,618	16,312	19,526	204	—	—	4,908	18
—	165,690	—	204,780	—	164,171	—	40,609	—	—	19
—	3,479	—	4,227	—	2,569	—	1,658	—	—	20
—	5,888	—	4,569	—	5,196	—	—	—	627	21
—	2,546	—	3,043	—	2,193	—	850	—	—	22
1,504	21,331	1,214	16,333	1,331	17,497	—	—	117	1,164	23
—	4,258	—	3,032	—	3,670	—	—	—	638	24
114,373	16,473	89,797	15,227	121,466	17,778	—	—	31,669	2,551	25
—	2,090	—	1,509	—	1,783	—	—	—	274	26
—	28,347	—	27,724	—	26,473	—	1,251	—	—	27
—	7,276	—	7,725	—	6,782	—	943	—	—	28
—	18,493	—	19,436	—	16,819	—	2,617	—	—	29
—	3,675	—	3,821	—	2,722	—	1,099	—	—	30
86	3,979	74	3,430	73	3,730	1	—	—	300	31
1,642,738	10,097	1,769,716	8,897	1,528,795	9,053	240,921	—	—	156	32
—	3,737	—	1,463	—	1,925	—	—	—	462	33
—	5,914	—	6,048	—	5,233	—	815	—	—	34
—	2,462	—	2,636	—	1,989	—	647	—	—	35
302,273	9,677	247,571	8,325	241,675	6,822	5,896	1,503	—	—	36
—	5,041	—	4,776	—	3,952	—	824	—	—	37
—	2,921	—	3,596	—	2,032	—	1,564	—	—	38
—	15,721	—	16,040	—	14,289	—	1,751	—	—	39
330	3,732	181	2,198	334	3,558	—	—	153	1,360	40
197,647	14,110	180,391	15,039	175,845	12,136	4,546	2,903	—	—	41
5,205	13,169	5,761	13,840	4,940	13,009	821	831	—	—	42
—	2,027	—	2,158	—	2,251	—	—	—	93	43
142	2,061	165	2,444	122	1,739	43	705	—	—	44
—	78,086	—	83,330	—	35,837	—	47,493	—	—	45
—	—	8,908	852	—	—	8,908	852	—	—	46
239	4,225	290	5,557	278	4,468	12	1,089	—	—	47
148	2,306	212	3,794	179	2,743	33	1,051	—	—	48
704	30,971	559	25,729	630	28,728	—	—	71	2,999	49
—	2,910	—	3,481	—	3,088	—	393	—	—	50
31,637	5,627	9.263	4,042	31,779	5,282	—	—	22,516	1,240	51
10,317	1,501	10,049	1,449	13,283	1,870	—	—	3,234	421	52
7,972	4,048	8,944	5,584	7,849	4,340	1,095	1,244	—	—	53
—	7,592	—	8,354	—	8,235	—	119	—	—	54
—	644,829	—	674,474	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

27. The following statement shows the fluctuations in the quantities and values of the principal articles:—

Increase.

—		1904.	1905.	1904.	19	In-crease.	De-crease.	In-crease.	De-crease.
		Quantities.	Quantities.	Value Sterling.	Value in Sterling.	Quantities.	Quantities.	Value in Sterling.	Value in Sterling.
				£	£			£	
1. Ale and Porter	Dozen	22,566	27,623	7,099	8,229	5,057	—	1,130	—
2. „ „	Gallons	368	1,092	42	128	724	—	86	—
3. Bags	No.	325,641	477,901	5,949	8,871	152 260	—	2,922	—
4. Beads	Value	—	—	5,095	6,632	—	—	1,537	—
5. Cottons	„	—	—	165 690	204,780	—	—	39 090	—
6. Sugar, refined..	Tons	239	290	4,225	5,557	51	—	1,332	—
7. „ unrefined	„	148	212	2 306	3,794	64	—	1,488	—
8. Spirits— Rum	Gallons	—	—	14,110	15,039	—	—	929	—
9. Wine, not claret	„	7,972	8,944	4,048	5,584	972	—	1,536	—
Total	—	—	—	208,564	258,614	—	—	50,050	—

Decrease.

—		1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	In-crease.	De-crease.	In-crease.	De-crease.
		Quantities.	Quantities.	Value in Sterling.	Value in Sterling.	Quantities.	Quantities.	Value in Sterling.	Value in Sterling.
				£	£				£
1. Coals	Tons	19,262	16,516	21,519	14,618	—	2,746	—	6,901
2. Earthenware..	Value	—	—	5,888	4,569	—	—	—	1,319
3. Flour	Tons	1,504	1,214	21,331	16,333	—	290	—	4,998
4. Machinery ..	Value	—	—	3,737	1,463	—	—	—	2 274
5. Oil, kerosine ..	Gallons	302,273	247,571	9,677	8,325	—	54,702	—	1,352
6. Rice	Tons	330	181	3,732	2,198	—	149	—	1.534
7. Spirits— Brandy ..	Gallons	2,685	2,164	1,435	1,324	—	521	—	111
Gin	„	114,373	89,797	16,473	15,227	—	24 576	—	1,246
Rum	„	197,647	180,391	—	—	—	17,256	—	—
Whisky and other Spirits.	„	31,637	18,171	5,627	4,894	—	13,466	—	733
8. Tobacco, unmanufactured.	Tons	704	559	30,971	25,729	—	145	—	5,242
9. Wine, claret ..	Gallons	10 317	10,049	1,501	1,449	—	268	—	52
Total	—	—	—	121,891	96 129	—	—	—	25,762

28. The majority of the increases shown in the above table are due to a general improvement in trade.

29. The chief decreases occur under the items "Flour," "Kerosine Oil," "Spirits," and "Tobacco." It is difficult to state with certainty the causes of these decreases, but the following reasons, obtained from those conversant with the trade of the Colony, probably correctly explain them:—

Flour.—The decrease in the importation of this article is attributed to large stocks carried over from the previous year. In the report for 1904 it was remarked that the importations of flour are largely affected by the local rice crop, the importation varying inversely with a good or bad rice harvest; the abundant rice crop in 1905 is probably the chief cause of the decline in the importation of flour in that year.

Kerosine Oil.—The decrease exhibited by this article is due to the large stock on hand at the end of 1904.

Spirits.—The decrease under this head is primarily due to the duty on spirits having been at the end of 1904 increased to 4*s.* a gallon; a secondary cause is that during the year the Tralles' system of gauging the strength of spirits was substituted for that by Sykes' hydrometer.

Tobacco.—The importation of tobacco exhibits a decrease of 145 tons as compared with the figures for the previous year. This decrease is due to the shortage in the American crop, and was aggravated by the increase in the price resulting from the shortage.

EXPORTS.

30. The following table shows the value of exports for the five years 1901-5, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the country from other exports and showing separately the value of specie and bunker coal:—

Year.	Produce and Manufactures of the Country.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.				Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.	Total British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901...	254,969	—	38,577	10,463	49,040	304,009
1902...	316,794	—	77,341	9,382	86,723	403,517
1903...	331,154	—	77,330	10,147	87,477	418,631
1904...	356,024	40,052	77,875	10,919	128,846	484,870
1905...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150

NOTE.—Previous to 1904 the value of Bunker Coal has not been shown in the Export Returns.

31. From the above table it will be observed that the total value of exports in 1905 exceeded that for 1904 by £78,280, and that, while the exports of British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures show a slight falling off, the exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony have increased by £79,782 over the figures for the previous year.

32. This marked advance in the exports of purely domestic produce is due to larger shipments of palm kernels, palm oil, piassava, and rubber, consequent on the steady expansion of trade in these commodities. The increase in the export of specie is not sufficiently large to be assigned to any particular cause; while the slight advance in British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures is merely a casual variation, and calls for no comment. Under the new Naval Scheme, Freetown is no longer the headquarters on the West Coast of Africa of ships of the South Atlantic Squadron, which has ceased to exist, and this fact and the fact that fewer ships of the mercantile marine coaled here during 1905 account for the decrease in the value of bunker coal exported.

33. The following table shows the quantities and values of the principal articles of export, being the produce and manufactures of the Colony, for the five years 1901-5:—

Articles.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Benniseed	235	2,610	213	2,006	292	2,547	106	925	84	798
Cola nuts	670	51,805	735	60,516	759	76,354	778	80,742	769	75,728
Ginger ..	622	8,742	776	17,358	878	15,898	885	12,743	678	7,768
Gumcopal	67	5,803	69	6,820	67	6,740	42	4,033	32	3,210
Palm kernels.	20,475	161,749	22,623	201,356	22,760	196,431	25,101	213,731	28,155	269,355
	Galls.		Galls.		Galls.		Galls.		Galls.	
Palm oil	164,340	9,816	220,809	13,544	232,000	14,0[illegible]8	241,131	16,245	266,012	18,524
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Pepper ..	43	637	27	674	77	1,[illegible]5[illegible]	53	1,536	48	1,376
Piassava	8	185	68	1,104	177	[illegible],52[illegible]	156	2,904	226	3,980
Rubber..	59	9,203	46	8,192	48	[illegible],2[illegible]3	68	18,055	190	49,132
	—	250,550	—	311,570	—	[illegible]26,7[illegible]0	—	350,914	—	815,871

34. The following table shows the percentage proportion of the value of each of the above articles to the total exports during the year:—

Benniseed...	·18	per cent.
Cola nuts	17·38	„ „
Ginger	1·78	„ „
Gum copal	·74	„ „
Palm kernels	61·81	„ „
Palm oil	4·25	„ „
Pepper	·31	„ „
Piassava	·91	„ „
Rubber	11·27	„ „
	98·63	„ „

35. According to the above table, increases and decreases, as compared with the figures for 1904, have occurred under the following items:—

Articles.	Increases.		Articles.	Decreases.	
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£		Tons.	£
Palm kernels ...	3,053	55,620	Benniseed ...	22	127
	Gals.		Cola nuts ...	9	5,014
Palm oil	24,881	2,279	Ginger	207	4,975
	Tons.		Gum copal ...	10	823
Piassava	70	1,076	Pepper	5	160
Rubber	72	31,077			

Increases.

Palm Kernels.—The marked increase in the export of this, the principal article of domestic produce, must be ascribed wholly to the opening up of the Protectorate by the railway and to improved road communication. The construction of the railway and the making of roads as feeders thereto, have afforded the natives an easy and rapid means of conveying their produce to those centres at which it can readily and profitably be disposed, and the encouragement thus given has had a marked effect not only on the output of palm kernels, but on all those other articles in which increases have occurred. The quantity and value of kernels exported in 1905 constitutes a record in the history of the Colony.

Palm Oil.—Compared with the year 1904, the export of this product has increased in the year under review by 24,881 gallons of the value of £2,279. These are the best results attained during the last five years. In the report for 1904 attention was drawn to the disproportion between the quantity of palm kernels and the quantity of oil exported from Sierra Leone and the quantities of the same articles exported from the other British Colonies and Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa. In that report an explanation was hazarded as to the possible cause of this disproportion, and it was added that efforts were being made to bring about a more even proportion between the export of oil as compared with that of kernels.

As the principal palm-oil season (for fine oil) is in the early part of the year, the result of those efforts should be looked for in the statistics for 1906.

Note.—The Customs returns received up to the date of this report seem to show that there may be a remarkable increase in the export of palm oil in the current year.

Piassava.—The export of this article has increased by 70 tons, or over 40 per cent. over the figures for 1904.

Rubber.—The trade in rubber has largely increased during the year, the quantity exported being the largest for the past five years; it exceeds by nearly 300 per cent. the amount shipped in 1904. Of this increase a large proportion was "root rubber." The expression "root rubber" means rubber obtained by cutting up a vine or its roots into short lengths and boiling the cut fragments. Our knowledge is not complete with respect to the number of species of rubber-yielding vines, nor of their properties, nor of the processes by which the rubber can be best extracted from the respective species. While it is known that, under favourable conditions, the latex can be obtained copiously from some vines, there is reason to suppose that it cannot be made to flow freely from other vines. If this latter supposition is found to be correct, it necessarily follows that it would be a mistake to prohibit the export of the so-called "root rubber," especially as some fragments of the roots always remain in the soil, and, consequently, no danger exists of the plant becoming exterminated.

Decreases.

Kola Nuts.—As compared with 1904 there is a small decrease of 9 tons in the quantity of kola nuts exported during the year. This decrease may be accounted for by the departure of fewer steamers in December, 1905, than in the corresponding month in the previous year for the ports of Bathurst (Gambia) and Dakar (Senegal), which furnish the largest markets on the coast for the sale of the nut. The average ruling prices in the local market were also much lower in 1905 than in 1904.

Ginger.—The low price obtainable in the European markets for this article is no doubt the cause of the shrinkage in the quantity exported. Steps are being taken to improve the quality, and a trial shipment of clean bright ginger, prepared by Mr. Abayomi Cole, a native agriculturist, recently realised 35*s*. 6*d*. per cwt., as compared with 27*s*. 6*d*. the sale price of the ordinary quality shipped from here.

Gum Copal.—The trade in this article continues to decline; the quantity exported in 1905 is the lowest for the last five years. By far the largest proportion of this product is obtained from the Protectorate, and it is probable that the prices obtainable in the European markets are not sufficiently remunerative to encourage and extend the industry. Another element which has conspired to arrest the expansion of the trade in gum copal is the restriction placed on its collection for the last three years by one of the most intelligent native rulers in the Protectorate, with a view to preserve the trees which were becoming exhausted.

The other decreases noted in the table are small, and no special reason can be assigned for them.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

36. It may be as well here to explain that in the tables relating to direction of trade, which follow, no attempt is made to indicate the country of origin of the imports; what is given is the country whence the goods are imported.

37. The following table shows the value and direction of the years 1904 and 1905. It also shows the increase and decrease

Countries.	Total Imports therefrom.				Exports			
					Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.			
	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom	495,597	520,144	24,547	—	122,994	151,754	28,756	—
British Colonies :—								3015
Gambia	17,628	12,256	—	5,372	37,722	33,498	—	4,224
Gold Coast	2,852	5,885	3,033	—	304	389	85	—
Lagos	29,568	8,848	—	20,720	547	611	64	—
Nigeria	289	428	139	—	38	122	84	—
Jamaica	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
St. Helena	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Totals	50,339	27,418	3,173	26,094	38,611	34,620	233	4,224
Foreign Countries :—								
France	2,826	3,905	1,079	—	470	473	3	—
Germany	79,081	83,401	4,320	—	147,551	202,259	54,708	—
Holland	10,113	11,908	1,795	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium	201	143	—	58	—	—	—	—
Spain	46	42	—	4	—	—	—	—
Madeira	92	196	104	—	1	—	—	1
Tenneriffe	634	887	253	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Canary	6,553	4,173	—	2,380	—	10	10	—
St. Louis	19	76	57	—	731	432	—	299
Senegal { Rufisque	252	179	—	73	5,229	5,236	7	—
Senegal { Dakar	1,718	2,339	621	—	24,792	22,816	—	1,976
Senegal { Goree	114	9	—	105	4,244	2,563	—	1,681
Bulama	85	115	30	—	456	1,006	550	—
Bissao	995	370	—	625	6,325	9,615	3,290	—
Windward Coast	11,237	10,366	—	871	4,154	4,538	384	—
Leeward Coast	13,072	14,101	1,029	—	205	183	—	22
Liberia	353	1,614	1,261	—	261	301	40	—
Cape Verde	271	—	—	271	—	—	—	—
America	43,638	21,262	—	22,376	—	—	—	—
Totals	171,300	155,086	10,549	26,763	194,419	249,432	58,992	3,979
Recapitulation :—								
United Kingdom	495,597	520 144	24,547	—	122,994	151,754	28,756	—
British Colonies	50,339	27,418	—	22,921	38,611	34,620	—	3,991
Foreign Countries	171,300	155,086	—	16,214	194,419	249,432	55,013	—
Grand Totals.. ..	717,236	702,648	24,547	39,135	356,024	435,806	83,769	3,991

import, export, and aggregate trade of the Colony for the two in trade in 1905 as compared with 1904:—

thereto.				Total Exports thereto.				Aggregate Trade. Total Imports and Exports.			
British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.											
1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
59,962	51,022	—	8,936	182,956	202,776	19,820	—	678,553	722,920	44,367	—
19,364	2.133	—	17,231	57,086	35,631	—	21,455	74,714	47,887	—	26,827
12,126	2,741	—	9,385	12,430	3,130	—	9,300	15,282	9,015	—	6,267
1,083	19,681	18,598	—	1,630	20,292	18,662	—	31,198	29,140	—	2,058
402	395	—	7	440	517	77	—	729	945	216	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
32,975	24,950	18,598	26,623	71,586	59,570	18,739	30,755	121,925	86,988	217	35,154
69	2	—	67	539	475	—	64	3,365	4,380	1,015	—
332	328	—	4	147,883	202,587	54,704	—	226,964	285,988	59,024	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,113	11,908	1,795	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	201	143	—	58
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	42	—	4
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	93	196	103	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	634	887	253	—
12	—	—	12	12	10	—	2	6,565	4,183	—	2,382
—	—	—	—	731	432	—	299	750	508	—	242
2	1	—	1	5,231	5.237	6	—	5,483	5,416	—	67
10	5	—	5	24,802	22,821	—	1,981	26,520	25,160	—	1,360
—	—	—	—	4,244	2,563	—	1,681	4,358	2,572	—	1,786
17	—	—	17	473	1,006	533	—	558	1,121	563	—
61	17	—	44	6,386	9,632	3,246	—	7,381	10,002	2,621	—
17,970	27,514	9,544	—	22,124	32,052	9,928	—	33,361	42,418	9,057	—
10,870	17,790	6,920	—	11,075	17,973	6,898	—	24,147	32,074	7,927	—
6,566	5,715	—	851	6,827	6,016	—	811	7,180	7,630	450	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	271	—	—	271
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43,638	21,262	—	22,376
35,909	51,372	16,464	1,001	230,328	300,804	75,315	4,839	401,628	455,890	82,808	28,546
59,962	51,022	—	8,936	182,956	202,776	19,820	—	678,553	722,920	44,367	—
32,975	24,950	—	8,025	71.586	59,570	—	12,016	121,925	86,988	—	34,937
35,909	51,372	15,463	—	230,328	300,804	70,476	—	401,628	455,890	54,262	—
128,846	127,344	15,463	16,961	484,870	563,150	90,296	12,016	1,202,106	1,265,708	98,629	34,937

38. As analysing the above statement, the following table gives the percentage proportion of the value of the import trade to total imports; export trade to total exports; and aggregate trade to total aggregate trade with each group of countries comprised in the table during the years 1904 and 1905:—

Countries.	Import Trade.		Export Trade.		Aggregate Trade.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
United Kingdom	69·1	74	37·7	36	56·4	57
British Colonies...	7·0	3·9	14·8	10·6	10·1	6·9
Foreign Countries	23·9	22·1	47·5	53·4	33·5	36·1
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100

39. It will be seen from the above that the United Kingdom continues to retain the largest proportion of the import and aggregate trade of the Colony, and that this proportion is on the increase, while foreign countries obtained the largest proportion of the export trade. Germany absorbs the greater portion of the exports of our principal staple, palm kernels, and it is to this fact that the high proportion of the export trade with foreign countries is due. The trade generally with British Colonies has declined.

Import Trade.

40. From the table showing the value and direction of the import, export, and aggregate trade of the Colony for 1904 and 1905, referred to in paragraph 37, it will be observed that compared with 1904 there was an increase in 1905 in the total value of imports from the United Kingdom of £24,547. This increase is due principally to larger importations of ale and porter, bags, cotton goods, flour, salt, specie, sugar, unmanufactured tobacco, and wine.

41. As regards British Colonies there is an increase of £3,033, under Gold Coast, but there is a marked falling off in the value of imports from the Gambia and Lagos of £5,372 and £20,720, respectively. These decreases are chiefly due to smaller importation of specie from those Colonies during the year.

42. The import trade with foreign countries has increased as follows:—

France, £1,079; Germany, £4,320; Holland, £1,795; Leeward Coast, £1,029; Liberia, £1,261. Minor increases appear as regards some of the other foreign countries included in the table, while there is a falling off in the value of imports from

Madeira of £2,380, and United States of America of £22,376. The cause of the decrease in the imports from America has been explained in paragraph 29.

Export Trade.

43. The table referred to in paragraph 37 shows that the value of exports to the United Kingdom in 1905 was £19,820 in excess of the figures for 1904. Larger shipments of rubber and palm kernels mainly account for this increase.

44. As regards British Colonies, Lagos shows an increase of £18,162, whilst there was a falling off in the trade with the Gambia and the Gold Coast of £21,455 and £9,300, respectively. In the case of Lagos the increase is explained by larger shipments of specie.

45. The decreases in respect of Gambia and the Gold Coast are due to smaller exports of kola nuts and specie to the former Colony, and to smaller shipments of specie to the latter.

46. The only increase of any importance in the export trade with foreign countries is that in respect of Germany, which amounts to £54,704. Bissao shows an improvement of £3,246, Windward Coast £9,928, and Leeward Coast £6,898.

47. The marked expansion in the export trade with Germany is due entirely to larger shipments of palm kernels, palm oil, and rubber to that country. Bissao's increase is due to larger exportations of kola nuts, Windward and Leeward Coasts to larger shipments of palm oil, in the case of the former, and of specie in the case of the latter.

Aggregate Trade (Imports and Exports).

48. The value of the aggregate trade between the Colony and the United Kingdom amounted in 1905 to £722,920, an increase of £44,367 over the figures for the previous year.

49. In regard to British Colonies the increases are unimportant, but the decreases, in the case of the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos amount to £26,827, £6,267, and £2,058, respectively, and are explained in paragraph 41.

50. The aggregate trade with foreign countries shows a marked increase. In the case of Germany, this increase amounts to £59,024. Bissao, Windward, and Leeward Coasts have also improved their trade with this Colony. The largest decrease (£22,376) took place in respect of the United States, and has been explained in paragraph 29 of this report.

51. It will be seen from the table, mentioned in paragraph 38, that the aggregate trade between this Colony and the United

Kingdom was of more importance than that between this and any other country, and that, as far as its value is concerned, it is equal to over 57 per cent. of the aggregate trade of the Colony. Germany comes next with a value of the aggregate trade of £285,988, and though this is far below the value of the aggregate trade of this Colony with the United Kingdom, yet the progress made by Germany in securing our trade is greater than that of the United Kingdom, whose increase in 1905 is £44,204, against £59,024 by Germany.

52. The following statement exhibits the total value in sterling of the imports into the Colony of Sierra Leone from various countries in each of the undermentioned years, and shows also the percentage proportion of these imports to the total imports of each year:—

Year.	Value of Imports into the Colony of Sierra Leone from all Countries.	Imports from the United Kingdom.		Imports from British West African Colonies.		Imports from Germany.		Imports from France.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.
	£	£		£		£		£	
1901	548,286	411.578	75·07	10,856	2·00	60,601	11·05	4,236	·77
1902	625.935	455.922	72·84	21,887	3·50	70,681	11·29	5.483	·88
1903	700,827	514,970	73·48	39,530	5·64	72,559	10·36	7,018	1·00
1904	717,236	495.597	69·10	50,337	7·02	79,081	11·03	2,826	·40
1905	702,648	520,144	74·02	27,417	3·90	83,401	11·87	3,905	·55

Year.	Value of Imports into the Colony of Sierra Leone from all Countries.	Imports from the United States of America.		Imports from Foreign West African Countries.		Imports from other European Countries.		Imports from other Countries.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.
	£	£		£		£		£	
1901	548.286	40,151	7·32	15,323	2·80	3,579	·63	1,962	·36
1902	625,935	47,218	7·54	14,820	2·37	6,982	1·12	2,942	·46
1903	700,827	36,564	5·22	14,187	2·02	9.061	1·29	6,938	·99
1904	717,236	43,638	6·08	27,845	3·88	10,360	1·44	7,552	1·05
1905	702,648	21,261	3·03	29,171	4·15	12,092	1·72	5,257	·76

53. The import trade of this Colony with the United Kingdom during 1905 will be seen from the preceding statement to be highest in value in the quinquennium, and that the percentage proportion of imports from the United Kingdom to total imports is advancing to the position it held in 1901.

The progress made by Germany measured both by value and by proportion to total imports has been consistently in the direction of increase, and has reached a higher point during 1905 than in any other year dealt with in the statement above.

The drop in value of imports from the United States of America has already been explained.

54. The following statement shows the total value of the principal exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony during the years 1901 to 1905, classified so as to show the export trade with the various countries and the proportion the export trade bears to total exports of produce and manufacture of the Colony:—

Year.	Value of Exports of Produce of the Colony of Sierra Leone to all Countries.	Exports to the United Kingdom.		Exports to British West African Colonies.		Exports to Germany.		Exports to France.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.
	£	£		£		£		£	
1901	254,969	80,615	31·62	23,078	9·05	117,917	46·25	1,909	·75
1902	316,794	109,079	34·43	32,439	10·24	142.804	45·07	578	·18
1903	331,154	105,470	31·85	35,587	10·75	145.332	43·89	792	·24
1904	356,024	122,994	34·54	38,611	10·84	147,551	41·44	470	·13
1905	435,806	151,754	34·82	34,620	7·94	202,259	46·41	473	·11

Year.	Value of Exports of Produce of the Colony of Sierra Leone to all Countries.	Exports to the United States of America.		Exports to Foreign West African Countries.		Exports to other European Countries.		Exports to other Countries.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.
	£			£				£	
1901	254,969	—	—	31,450	12·33	—	—	—	—
1902	316,794	—	—	31,892	10·07	—	—	2	·01
1903	331.154	—	—	43.973	13·27	—	—	—	—
1904	356,024	—	—	46,397	13·04	—	—	1	·01
1905	435.806	—	—	46.690	10·71	—	—	10	·01

SHIPPING.

55. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,735, of a tonnage of 1,616,272 tons; of this total, 1,257 vessels (tonnage 1,267,178) were British.

56. The following table shows the shipping, entered and cleared, for the five years 1901-5:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Number	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1901 ...	444	17,069	787	1,232,739	1,232	1,249,808
1902 ...	638	14,416	888	1,453,572	1,526	1,467,988
1903 ...	359	11,406	981	1,676,951	1,340	1,688,357
1904 ...	426	14,652	908	1,581,262	1,334	1,595,914
1905 ...	823	11,126	912	1,605,146	1,735	1,616,272

57. From the foregoing table it will be observed that while the number of sailing ships entered and cleared during the year is almost double what it was in 1904, there is but a very small increase in the number of steamers, the number for 1905 being far short of that for 1903. In the report for 1904 it was explained that the cause of this falling off was due to the exclusion of the port of Freetown as a port of call by the vessels of the British and African Steam Navigation Company, and of the African Steamship Company running on the South Coast Express Service, and to the withdrawal of the passenger boats of the Woermann Line, which called here during 1903. These reasons also apply to the year just closed.

58. The passenger and freight trade is, however, still amply provided for.

AGRICULTURE.

59. With the exception of the cultivation of such crops as rice, cassada, ginger, &c., but little is done by the natives by way of agriculture. There are but few plantations of such permanent crops as cocoa, kola, cocoa-nut, &c., and the methods followed by those who cultivate the soil are primitive in the extreme.

Along a few of the roads of the Protectorate, kola trees have been planted, and in some of the districts of the Colony kola and cocoa seedlings have been distributed free of cost to those farmers who are willing to undertake their cultivation.

It is true that in the case of kola a large number of trees are to be found in and near the several villages in the Protectorate, and that the nut forms one of the principal articles of export of this country, but in the Colony itself very little kola is grown. Cocoa has never been grown in sufficient quantity to form an article of export. It has been stated that one of the chief reasons why plantations of permanent crops are not established is the fear of destruction of the young plants by bush fires; in order to remove the difficulty complained of, an

Ordinance has been passed dealing with the question of bush fires, and providing for the establishment of protective belts around such plantations of permanent crops as may be established. It remains to be seen to what extent farmers will take advantage of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Ginger.

The cultivation of ginger is confined almost exclusively to the Colony. Compared with 1904, the quantity exported in the year under review has decreased. The area under cultivation is necessarily affected by the prices ruling in the European markets, and varies according as the price obtained is high or low.

Cotton.

The cultivation of cotton is not systematically carried on by the natives of this country. The species cultivated by the people is indigenous, and the lint obtained from it is not of good quality. In certain parts of the Protectorate native cloth is manufactured for local use, and only sufficient cotton is grown to meet the needs of this industry. On the plantation of the British Cotton Growing Association at Moyamba, 1,030 acres of land were under cultivation during the year; the experimental planting covered an average of 648 acres, and various types of seeds were experimented with. The number of labourers employed on the plantation during the year was 4,431, giving an average of about 370 per month.

The quantity of cotton exported in 1905 was 31 tons, an increase of 18 tons over that for 1904. The greater part of the cotton exported was shipped by the British Cotton Growing Association, and 80 per cent. was cotton purchased by the Association from the natives.

Coffee.

There are two kinds of coffee grown in the Colony, viz., Liberian coffee and that known as Sierra Leone coffee, but the price obtainable in European markets is too low to encourage its shipment, and the entire crop grown is consumed locally.

Rice.

This is the staple article of food of the people, and is of excellent quality. At present only about two-thirds of the quantity consumed is grown locally; the other third being imported from India. The natives have found by experience that a second crop of rice cannot be obtained from land without first allowing the latter to go back into bush for seven years. Throughout the Protectorate, therefore, approximately one-sixth of the land is lying in what may be termed bush-fallow.

One objection which the natives have to a system of rotation of crops is that, if the land is kept under continuous cultivation for three years, the bush is thereby killed, and, consequently, that the land cannot be re-fertilised by the bush-fallow system. At present too little is known of the agricultural problem on the West Coast, and, consequently, the Government cannot advise the chiefs either to abolish the bush-fallow system or to try the effect of rotation of crops. Probably the solution will be found in deep-soil cultivation, and experiments on a small scale are being made with this object in several chiefdoms. Another difficulty is that the cost of artificial manure is prohibitive, and that no cattle manure is obtainable. The cattle are allowed to roam at large, but on the new roads, which have been constructed to feed the railway, a few cattle are now being employed; when cattle are employed regularly, manure will be available, and with its use the system of agriculture may be radically altered. Experience has also shown that there is a considerable risk in clearing land and planting it exclusively with a crop which is dependent on surface roots, as the heavy rains wash away the soil and the tender roots thus exposed are scorched by the sun, the heat of which is frequently, for a few hours, as violent during the wet as during the dry season. The hot dry winds (Harmattan) which blow with force from December to February are another difficulty, and their effect must be taken into account before the problem of tropical agriculture on the West Coast can be regarded as solved.

Fibre.

Of the minor indigenous products, fibres are the most important. Samples of several species of fibre have been forwarded to Professor Dunstan of the Imperial Institute for examination, and his report on them has been most encouraging. Of the indigenous fibres the only one which, grown by nature, in dense quantities is that known as Napunti, and no process has yet been found which can be recommended to natives as a practical one for the extraction of the fibre. The other fibres are Corwe, Sansseviera, and Okra; the fibre from all these plants is easily extracted, and it is probable that the amount of fibre collected and sold by the natives might, with organisation, become of some importance. These fibres, however, will never become a large article of export unless the plants are cultivated. Experiments in cultivation are being made.

Piassava.

The palm, from which the piassava of commerce is obtained, grows in large quantities in the low-lying portions of the Ronietta, Bandajuma, and Sherbro Districts. With a view to encouraging the natives in the preparation of this valuable article of commerce, experts were employed by the Government. The quantity of piassava exported during the year, as compared with 1904, shows a considerable increase, and the price obtained (in some cases £27 per ton) has improved. The high price has, however, tempted the natives to make piassava from immature palms, and to check this tendency the chiefs have been advised to prohibit the extraction of the fibre from palms of less than five years old.

BOTANICAL STATION.

60. The Botanical Gardens were closed, the site having been found to be unsuitable.

III.—LEGISLATION.

61. The revision of the laws was continued, and fifty-nine ordinances were repealed; of this number, some were obsolete, and the others were re-enacted with necessary modifications. Several laws were also passed which were not connected with revision. Of these the most noteworthy were the Sherbro Native Courts Ordinance (No. 3), which placed native chiefs in parts of the Sherbro district on the same footing as chiefs in the Protectorate.

By the Public Health Ordinance (No. 15), thirteen of the older laws were either repealed or re-enacted with modifications, and the necessary powers were given for enforcing sanitation in towns and for coping with epidemics. By this law, in times of epidemic, the Government is empowered to declare buildings to be isolation buildings for the accommodation of labourers whose services are required "in or about ships or for the carriage of goods from any infected area." As an illustration of the extraordinary authority and power which a properly selected headman or chief has over his tribe may be cited the fact that, during the small-pox epidemic referred to elsewhere in this report, the head krooman was able, with slight assistance from the Government, to keep the two hundred kroomen in a compound in complete isolation. All these kroomen were vaccinated, and as they were kept in isolation they were able to load and unload the ships without causing the latter to be regarded by other coast Governments as having touched at an infected port. With a less capable headman, however, the tribal authority would have been insufficient and the isolation would have been incomplete. It was to meet this eventuality that the provision was passed to which attention has been already called.

The Protectorate Native Law Ordinance (No. 16).—This law contains some provisions that may have a far-reaching effect. A debt cannot be recovered against a paramount chief unless it is proved by the certificate of the District Commissioner that the principal men have assented to the debt being contracted; similarly, a native cannot incur a debt save with the consent of his family or the chief of the town in which he resides. Sierra Leone traders settling in the Protectorate are relieved from having to make presents to the chief of the locality provided that they pay £1 per annum to that chief; the commutation for a fixed sum is intended to improve the relations between settlers and the Protectorate tribes. With the object of bringing about the improvement last mentioned the law creates "Combined Courts," composed of the chief and a prominent settler, with powers to settle small disputes. The law deals with the powers of a chief with respect to enforcing labour for public works and the conditions subject to which the chief's farm may be worked.

IV.—EDUCATION.

62. Owing to the absence of the Inspector of Schools, no report is available for 1905, and the information which follows in regard to the schools is taken from the report for 1904.

63. The number of assisted schools in the Colony at the close of the year was 75, divided as follows:—

Church of England	36
Wesleyan	20
United Methodist Free Church	9
Countess of Huntingdon	4
Roman Catholic	3
Other Schools	3
	75

The number of pupils on the roll of these schools was 8,223, and the average attendance 5,977.

These figures show a decrease of 159 in the roll number and eight in the number of average attendance, as compared with the figures for 1903.

The grant-in-aid paid by the Government amounted in 1905 to £1,566.

The difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of trained and qualified teachers, to which attention was drawn in the report for the previous year, still exists, and to this cause must be ascribed the very slow and gradual advance of education amongst the poorer inhabitants of the Colony.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

64. The number of secondary schools for the higher education of boys and girls remains the same as in 1904, viz., 6; of these, two belong to the Church Missionary Society, two to the Wesleyan body, one to the Roman Catholic Missions, and one is a private enterprise.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

65. Fourah Bay College, under the control of the Church Missionary Society, is affiliated with Durham University, and the students at this College may proceed to the degrees in arts and theology. Three scholarships of the value of £40 each, and others of a less amount, are annually given. The College offers to those who can afford it the means of obtaining a higher education. The number of highly educated natives who now hold important positions in the Colony as doctors, barristers, merchants, and as Government officers is a remarkable testimony of the valuable place which the College has filled in the institutions of the Colony.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

66. This institution is also under the control of the Church Missionary Society.

67. The education provided by it is of a purely technical nature, and it performs a most useful work in the training of youths in the various handicrafts. There are three classes in the school:—

(i.) Students who take the higher course of studies, comprising drawing, geometry, elementary trigonometry, mensuration, mechanics, and the theory of the various trades. Practical work in carpentry, land surveying, architecture, and civil engineering is also taught.

(ii.) Apprentices who are grounded in practical plane geometry, mensuration, and elementary building.

(iii.) Boys of slight education from the Mission Schools in the Colony and Protectorate who are taken as pupils for one year in the first instance with a view to their becoming apprentices at the end of that period.

Practical lessons are given each day to the students in the workshops attached to the school and in the buildings in course of construction by the school.

68. The enlargement of the premises for the purpose of providing accommodation for more students was commenced

during the year. At the close of the year there were twenty students and apprentices on the roll.

69. Twenty-eight children attending the elementary schools are receiving instruction in plane geometry and freehand drawing.

70. The school receives from the Government an annual grant of £120.

MOHAMMEDAN SCHOOLS.

71. The Director of Mohammedan Education was absent in Europe during the greater part of the year, and there is no report on Mohammedan education.

72. The following table shows the number of pupils on the roll and the average attendance for the years 1904 and 1905:—

Number of Schools.	1904.		1905.	
	No. on the roll.	Average attendance.	No. on the roll.	Average attendance.
4	842	579	721	463

73. The only schools in the Protectorate are those established in connection with the various missions, for which no statistics are available.

74. The cost of establishing a system of universal education in the Protectorate is beyond the present financial resources of the Government, but the scheme sanctioned in 1905 by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the establishment of a school for the education of the sons and nominees of chiefs has been carried out, and at the close of the year the necessary buildings had been erected and the staff of masters appointed for bringing the scheme into operation early in 1906.

There are more than a dozen different languages spoken in the Protectorate. At the outset on their arrival at the school the pupils will of course be entirely ignorant of the English language, and will have to be taught by means of interpreters. At the outset the pupils will come from chiefdoms in the Konnoh country and from Mendi, Timne, and Sherbro chiefdoms.

Even if perfect interpreters were obtainable, it would be impossible to educate the children in a thorough manner in their native languages, owing to the poverty of the latter. Experience has shown that even in the Colony, where English has been spoken for over a hundred years, the majority of the children in the primary schools do not understand the exact meaning of many of the words and phrases in the books they read. It is hoped to teach the pupils at the school at Bo an exact knowledge of all English words they learn, and also to develop their intelligence by means of a prolonged course of instruction founded on object lessons. After eighteen months at the school it is hoped that the pupils will have learnt enough English to permit of their being taught to read and write, as both of these arts are comparatively simple when a knowledge of the language has been obtained and when by other means a child has been taught to use his brain. The pupils at the school will be, as already stated, the sons and nominees of chiefs, and the chief will pay £10 annually as school fees; if the pupil is not the son of a chief, but has been nominated by the latter after consultation with the principal men of the chiefdom, the £10 will be paid from the tribal revenue, and not from the chief's private pocket. One great difficulty at present exists with regard to this school, namely, that the chiefs will not send either their sons or their nominees to the school unless the Government undertakes that the education given shall be such as will not interfere with the belief of the children in the faith of their fathers. It will be necessary, therefore, that the teaching should be purely secular unless some other understanding on the subject can be arrived at with the chiefs.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

75. As was done last year, it has been arranged that the Principal Medical Officer's report for 1905 should be printed in England, and copies sent to the editors of the Journal of Tropical Medicine.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

76. The Colonial Hospital, Freetown, contains five wards and provides accommodation for 66 patients. There were 65 cases remaining under treatment at the close of 1904, 1,358 cases were admitted during 1905, bringing the total number of cases under treatment during the year to 1,423; of this number, 740 were cured, 333 were discharged relieved, 98 were discharged not improved, and 175 died, leaving 77 cases under treatment at the close of the year.

There were 12,963 out-patients treated during the year.

Attached to the hospital is an obstetric ward; 74 persons were admitted into this ward during 1905.

77. In his annual report, the Principal Medical Officer draws attention to the remarks of the surgeon in charge on the great advantage which has accrued from the presence of a

resident European matron, and in which he expresses the opinion that, although the native female nurses require an infinite amount of patient supervision, there is every reason to believe that competent nurses can be trained in the hospital who will be equal to the duties devolving on them.

78. In addition to the Colonial Hospital and Dispensary in Freetown, there is a hospital and dispensary at Sherbro and at the headquarters of each of the five districts of the Protectorate, and dispensaries are also established at Waterloo and in all the principal villages of the Colony. Prior to 1905 drugs were issued from all these dispensaries free of charge. It was found, however, that in the case of Freetown this practice was much abused, many persons attending the dispensary who could well afford to pay. A new departure was therefore made during the year in the case of the Freetown and Sherbro Dispensaries by charging a small sum for medicines in such cases. In the other dispensaries medicines are still issued free of charge. Dr. Prout, the Principal Medical Officer, in his report for the year, alludes to this charge for drugs, in the case of those able to pay for them, in the following terms:—"This is a step in the right direction, for it is an unfortunate fact that there is a tendency on the part of the people of this Colony to look to the Government to do everything for them and to be very little inclined towards self-help. This is no doubt a relic of the times when the population consisted mainly of liberated slaves who were dependent solely on the Government for their subsistence, and will, it is hoped, disappear with education, but the tendency is so evil in its pauperising effects that it should be combatted in every possible way."

Small-pox Hospital.

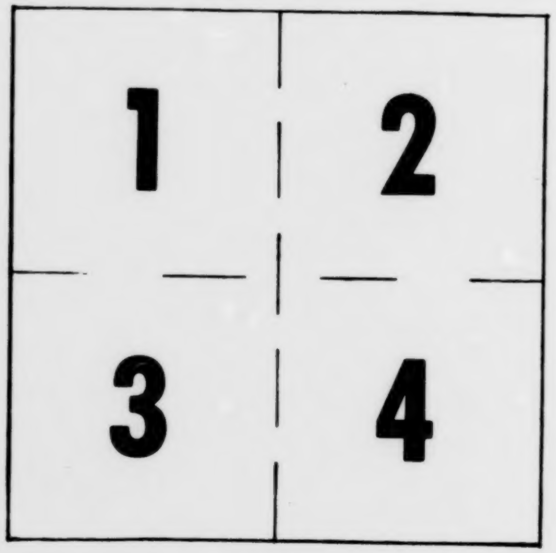
79. During the latter part of the year there was a very serious epidemic of small-pox in Freetown and the surrounding country, with the result that for a considerable period the small-pox hospital was seriously overcrowded. There were 629 cases admitted for treatment, of which number 130 died. This gives a death rate of 20·6 per cent.—a remarkably low rate, when the serious nature of many of the cases and the advanced stages in which they were admitted are taken into account.

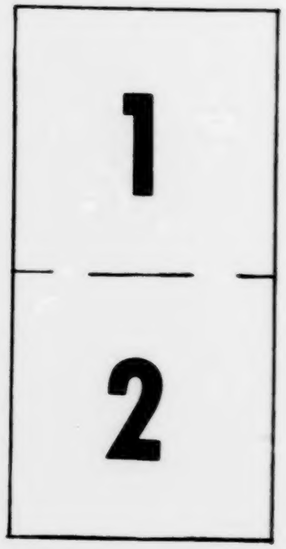
Nursing Home.

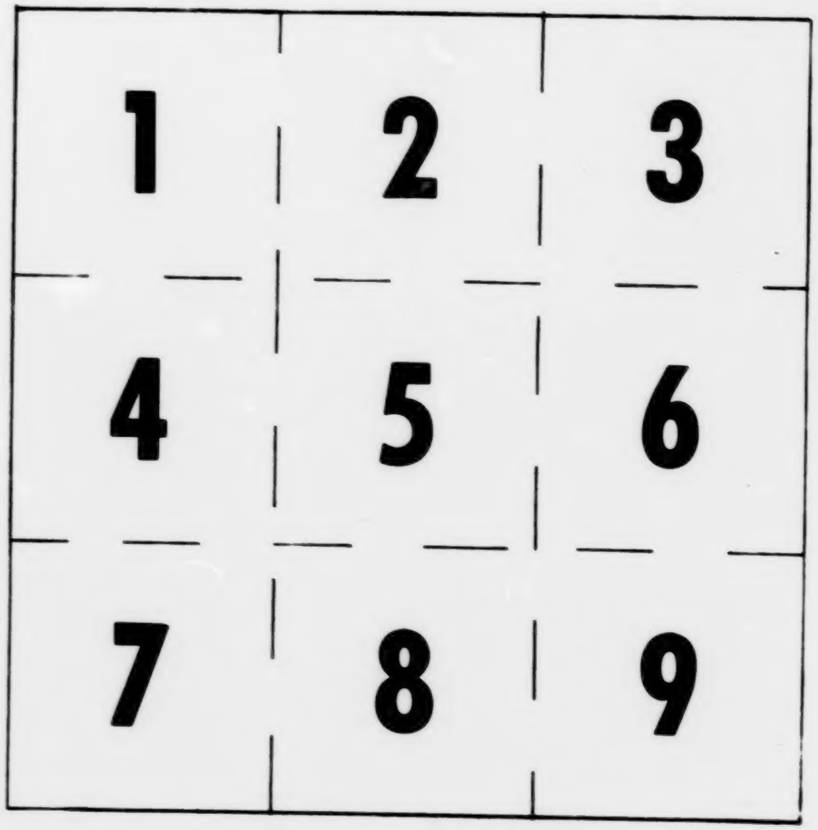
80. At the beginning of the year there was one case remaining over from 1904; 78 cases were admitted into the institution during the year, bringing up the total number of cases treated to 79, as compared with 76 in 1903 and 90 in 1904. Three patients died—a death rate of 3·3 per cent.

The causes of death were as follows:—Appendicitis, 1 (landed very seriously ill from a steamer and died same day);

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





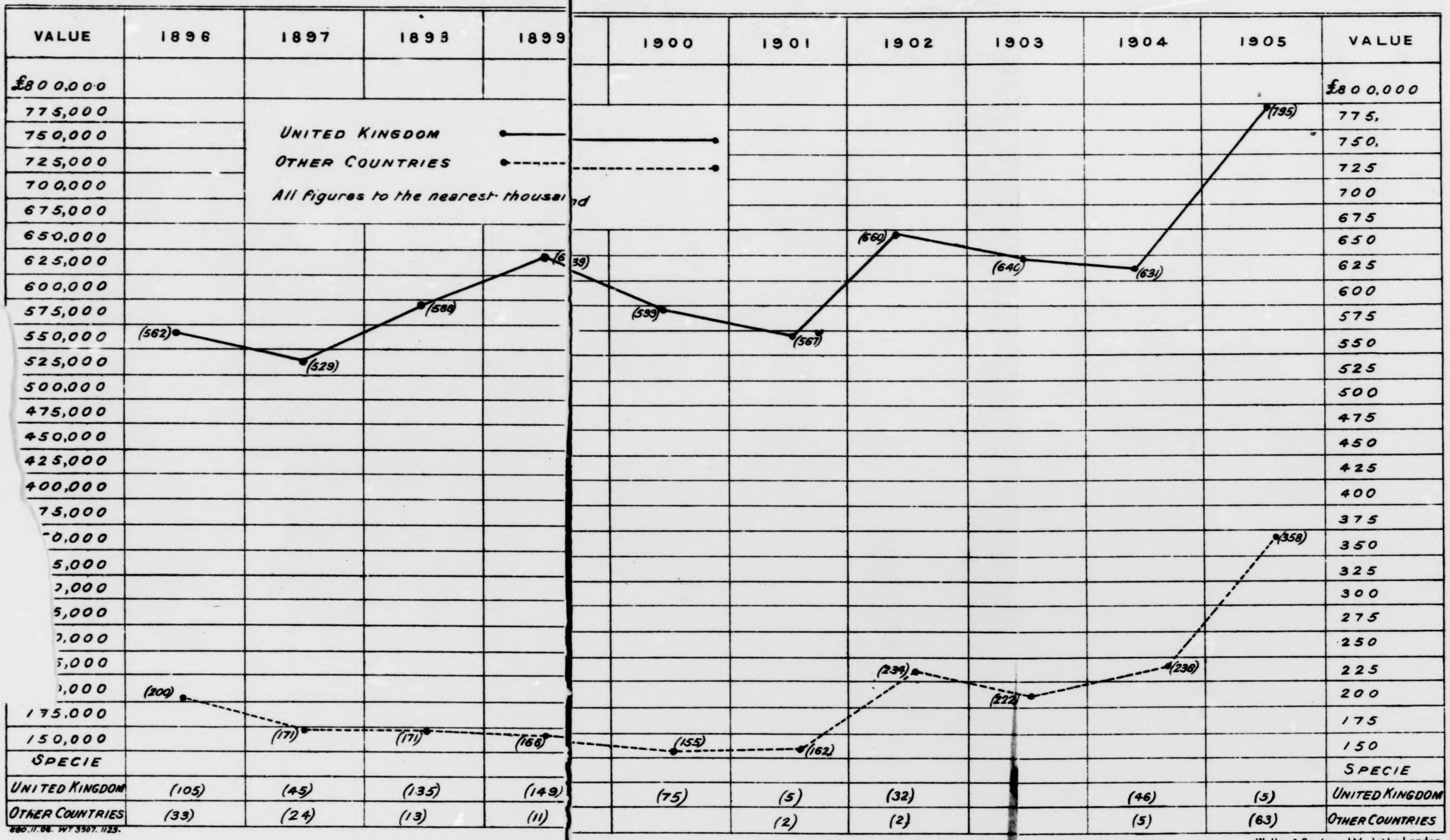


Appendix IV.

Diagram II.

COLONY OF LAGOS.

CHART SHEWING THE VALUE OF IMPORTS (EXCLUDING SPECIE) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND OTHER COUNTRIES FROM 1896 TO 1905.



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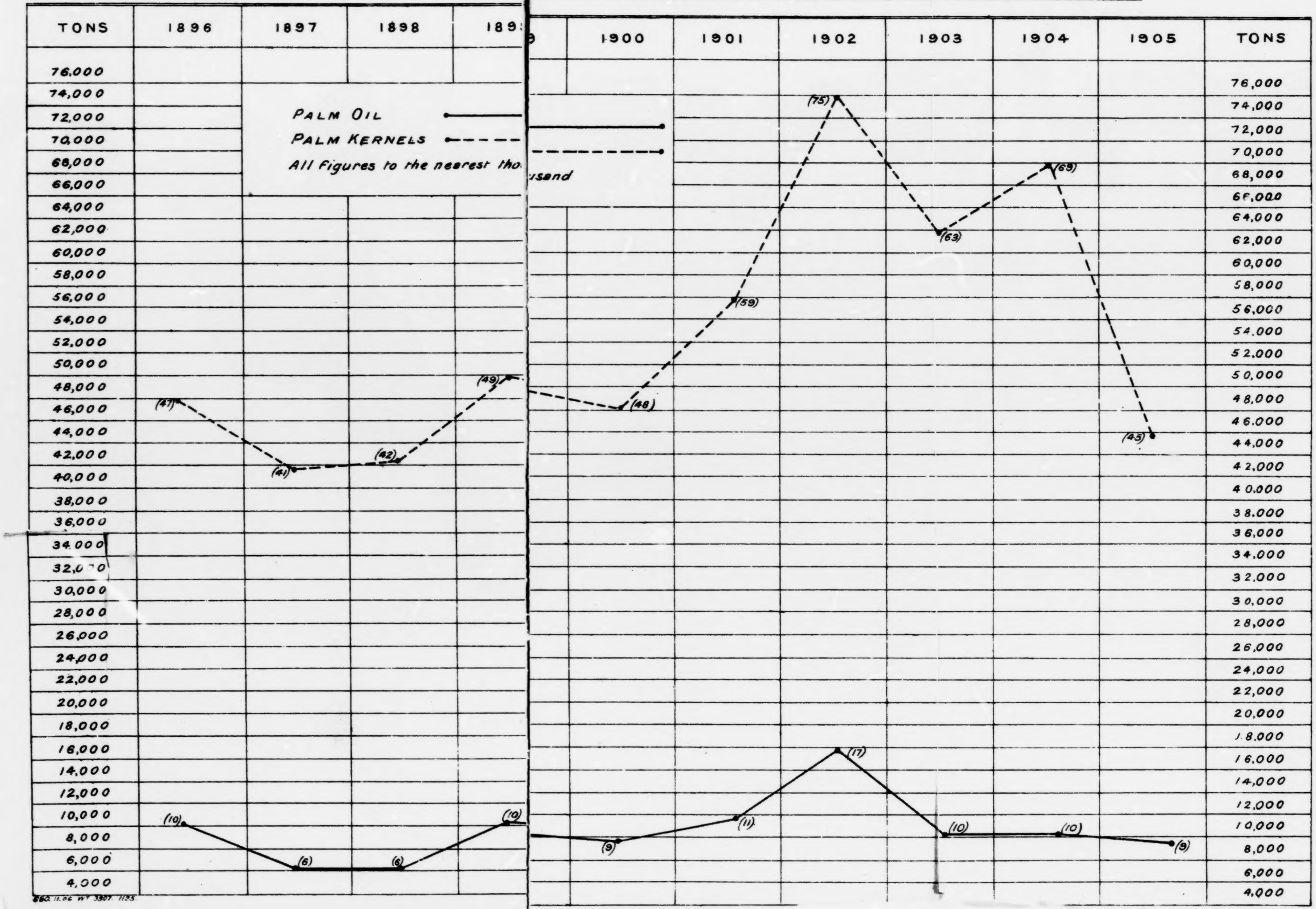
Appendix III.

COLONY OF LAGOS.

Diagram I.

CHART SHEWING THE QUANTITY OF PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS EXPORTED FROM 1896 TO 1905.



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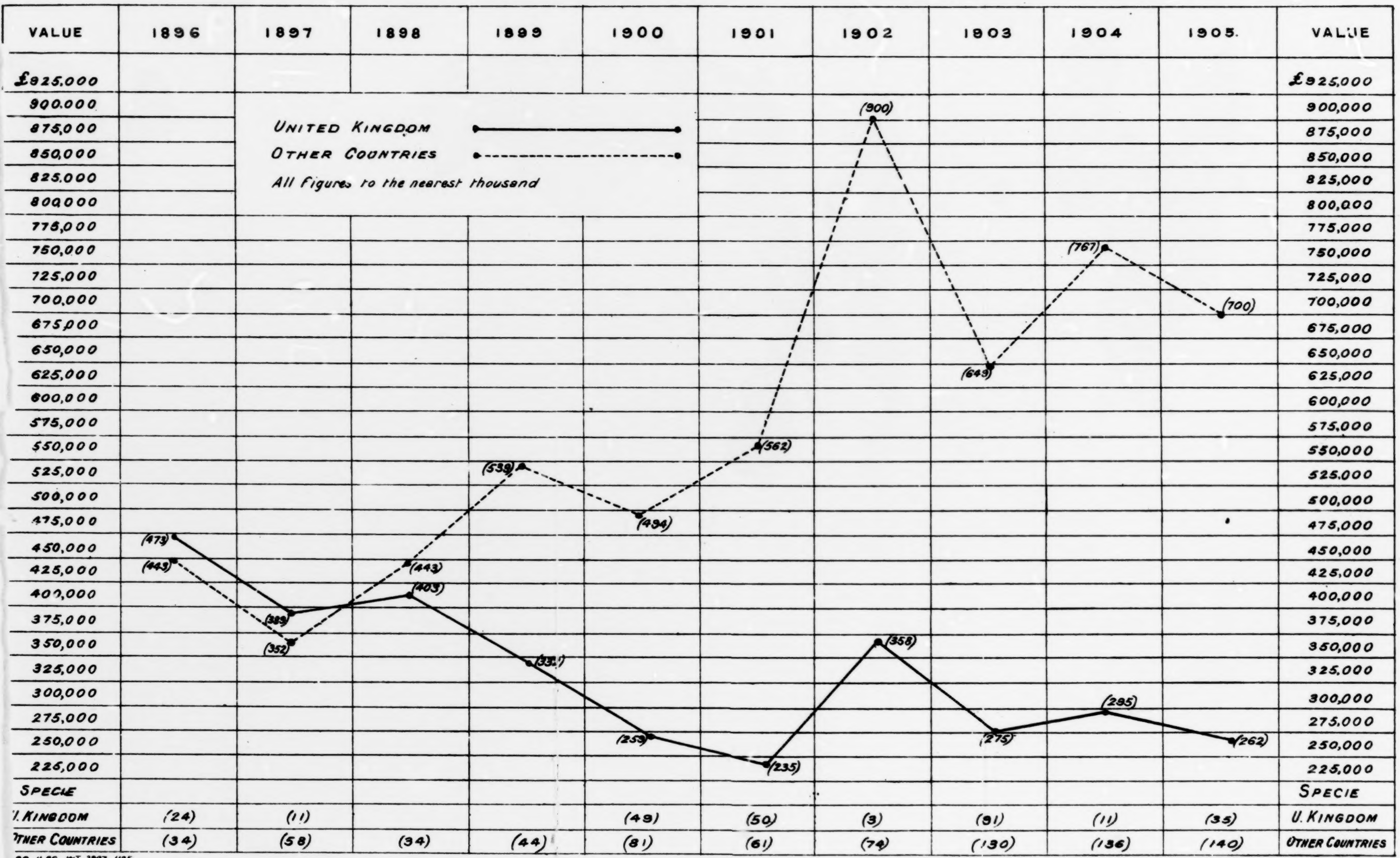
Appendix V.

Diagram III.

COLONY OF LAGOS.

CHART SHEWING THE VALUE OF EXPORTS (EXCLUDING SPECIE) TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND OTHER COUNTRIES FROM 1896 TO 1905.



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blackwater fever, 1; and remittent fever, 1 (admitted with hyperpyrexia and died the same day).

Excluding the two who died on the day of admission and whose condition was hopeless, the percentage of recoveries is very high.

81. Of the patients admitted, by far the largest proportion were suffering from some form of malarial fever. The following table gives a record of the diseases—

Malarial fever	40
Blackwater fever	1
Malarial Cachexia	2
Anæmia	1
Debility	4
Bronchitis	3
Lymphadenitis	4
Cellulitis	3
Nervous Affections	4
Digestive Diseases	7
Miscellaneous	10
Total ...	79

82. The following table shows the classes from which patients were derived:—

Government Officers	4
Mercantile Firms	19
Shipping	4
Railway	29
Military	16
Telegraph	2
Clergy and others	5
Total ...	79

83. It will be observed from the above table that the railway officials furnish the greater proportion of the admissions. In the opinion of the Principal Medical Officer, this is due, not merely to the fact that the nature of their duties exposes them to greater risks, but because it is found advisable to admit them for minor ailments as they are, as a rule, unable to obtain proper treatment in their own homes.

Colonial Hospital—Sherbro.

84. Two hundred and eighteen in-patients were under treatment in this hospital during the year, as against 174 in 1904; and 4,913 out-patients were attended to.

Protectorate Hospitals.

85. The statistics for the Protectorate hospitals show that 554 in-patients were treated in these institutions during the year, and that 7,511 out-patients were attended to.

ASYLUMS (COLONY).

86. *Lunatic Asylum.*—There were 116 inmates at the close of 1904, and 47 admissions during 1905, making a total of 163 patients under treatment. Of these, eleven were discharged cured, three relieved, three were sent back to their native country (West Indies), and there were 19 deaths, leaving a total of 127 under treatment at the end of the year.

The re-building of this asylum was continued during the year.

The work done by the lunatics consists in gardening and general work for the males, and in laundry work for the females.

It is hoped to extend the laundry work very considerably when the new female block is completed.

Patients are received in this institution from the neighbouring Colonies of the Gambia and Lagos, and a fixed daily sum, based on actual cost, is charged to cover cost of maintenance, &c.

Male Incurable Asylum.—There were 163 patients under treatment in this institution during the year. Of these, 76 were discharged and 27 died. Owing to the admission of old and destitute people into this asylum, the death rate must necessarily be high.

Female Incurable Asylum.—73 cases were under treatment in this asylum during the year, and nine deaths occurred.

SAVINGS BANK.

87. In addition to the savings bank in Freetown, there are branches at Sherbro and Waterloo and at the headquarters of each of the five districts into which the Protectorate is divided.

The total deposits during the year amounted to £36,447 14*s.* 11*d.*, and the withdrawals to £37,648 1*s.* 6½*d.* The amount due to depositors at the close of 1905, exclusive of interest for the year, amounted to £62,279 16*s.* 11*d.*

The excess of withdrawals over deposits for the year is due to the payment to certain chiefs in the Protectorate of large sums of money deposited by them at the close of 1904 on account of the house tax due in 1905.

The investments of savings bank monies at 31st December, 1905, amounted to £63,674 11*s.* 4*d.*

Interest is paid to depositors at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum. It amounted in 1904 to £1,370 3*s.* 0½*d.*; the amount received in 1905 from investments of savings bank monies was £2,072 1*s.*

88. The following table shows the transactions of the savings bank for the five years 1901-5:—

Year.	Number of Branches.	Number of Depositors.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
			£	£	£
1901 ...	3	4,116	24,475	25,648	48,925
1902 ...	4	4,570	31,645	31,262	49,322
1903 ...	9	5,307	36,682	29,381	57,616
1904 ...	9	5,368	37,390	34,147	62,112
1905 ...	9	5,680	36,478	37,648	62,280

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

89. The duties and powers of the police force are confined to the Colony.

90. The authorized strength of the force for the year was one European superintendent, one European inspector, and 263 native non-commissioned officers and men. Of this number, one non-commissioned officer and sixteen constables stationed in the Sherbro district were paid and equipped from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund.

The men of the force stationed in the Waterloo and Sherbro districts are armed with the Snider rifle; in Freetown, arms are only used for drill, bank guards, money and other escorts, and for physical drill for recruits.

Included in the strength of the force, as given above, is a detective branch, consisting of a sergeant and four constables. The detectives have done good work during the year in the detection of crime.

In August, 1905, the Secretary of State approved of pensions being granted to retiring members of the force, and their offices have been added to the list of pensionable offices.

Allowances to the detective officers in addition to their salary were also approved. The Secretary of State further approved of an allowance of 6*d.* per diem to a schoolmaster in addition to a capitation grant at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* a head on recruits who have been sufficiently educated to read notices and prepare simple police reports.

The cost of the police force in 1905 was £8,551, or about £32 10*s.* per man.

In the Protectorate police duties are performed by a staff of court messengers. The amount spent on the force during the year was £3,914.

(B) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

91. The number of indictable offences tried in the Supreme Court of the Colony during the year was 64, a decrease of three, as compared with 1904. Of the cases tried, 46 were convicted, seven fell through for want of prosecution, and 11 were acquitted. Included in the number of convictions were one of murder and one of attempted murder.

The number of summary convictions in the Magistrates' Courts, including the Courts of the District Commissioners of Waterloo and Sherbro, was 128, a decrease of 30 as compared with the figures for 1904.

For the statistics relating to the Protectorate, *see* paragraphs 136 and 139.

(C) PRISONS.

92. By law all persons sentenced to imprisonment of six months and more are confined in the prison in Freetown. There are no statistics as to the number of persons in imprisonment in the Protectorate for periods of less than six months.

During the year 702 males and 34 females were committed for safe custody awaiting trial; of these, 538 males and 20 females were eventually convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 207, as compared with 201 in 1904. The number of prisoners admitted into hospital during the year was 114, viz., 106 males and eight females, and the deaths numbered six. These figures compare very favourably with the figures for the previous year, and show that the health of the prisoners for the year under review has been good.

The behaviour of the prisoners has been good; the number of offences against prison discipline was 186, as compared with 240 in the previous year. Five prisoners were flogged during the year for grave breaches of prison discipline.

Divince service is conducted every Sunday for both sexes by a minister of the Church of England. The Fathers of the

Roman Catholic Mission are also given every facility for visiting prisoners belonging to their faith. Mohammedans undergoing imprisonment are allowed an opportunity of holding a service at midday every Friday.

The only education attempted is of a technical nature, and is imparted in one of the trades carried on in the prison manufacturing department.

A modified form of finger print identification has been introduced. It may be mentioned, although probably merely a coincidence, that there has been a considerable increase in the number of prisoners identified as having been previously convicted once or twice, and a falling off in the number of those convicted oftener.

The mark system towards the remission of sentence is only enjoyed by convicts sentenced to three years and more. Seven convicts earned a remission of sentence during the year.

Only labour of a useful and remunerative kind is performed by the prisoners.

The amount expended for the purchase of materials in connection with the manufacturing department of the prison amounted in 1905 to £1,159 7*s.* 7½*d.*

93. The following statement shows the expenditure and earnings in connection with the manufacturing department during the year under review:—

—	Totals.	Tailoring and Needlework.	Shoe-making.	Carpentry.	Washing.	Basket-making.	Stone-breaking.	Tools.	Charges.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total purchase for the year, 1905.	1,159 7 7½	930 16 0	9 9 8½	100 9 0	1 5 6	—	7 16 0	10 1 7	99 9 10
Stock on hand 1st January, 1905.	512 8 1½	380 15 9½	61 12 6	4 16 0	—	0 9 4	—	64 14 6¼	—
Total Debit	1,671 15 9	1,311 11 9½	71 2 2½	105 15 0	1 5 6	0 9 4	7 16 0	74 16 1¼	99 9 10
Total sales as per folio ...	1,187 19 0	965 16 2	70 5 4	140 1 6	2 8 0	—	9 8 0	—	—
Stock on hand as per Inventory.	870 3 3	648 0 6¾	111 1 9	16 3 6	—	0 1 4	20 0 0	74 16 1¼	—
Total Credits ...	2,058 2 3	1,613 16 8¾	181 7 1	156 5 0	2 8 0	0 1 4	29 8 0	74 16 1¼	—
Profit Excess of Credits ...	486 4 4	302 4 11½	110 4 10½	51 0 0	1 2 6	—	21 12 0	—	—
Loss Excess of Debits ...	99 17 10	—	—	—	—	0 0 8	—	—	99 9 10
Total Profit... ...	386 6 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The subjoined table shows how the profits are apportioned:—

—	Tailoring.	Shoemaking.	Carpentry.	Stonebreaking.	Washing.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Net Trade Profits	213 13 8¼	99 6 3¼	51 0 0	21 12 0	1 2 6	386 14 6
Less Losses on Basket-making.	—	—	—	—	—	0 8 0
Net Profit ..	—	—	—	—	—	386 6 6

The uniforms of the Frontier Force, court messengers, prison warders, office messengers, and railway officials are made in the manufacturing department, thereby effecting a considerable saving in the cost of such uniforms.

In addition to the prison in Freetown, there is a prison at Waterloo and one at Bonthe. During the year 38 prisoners underwent terms of imprisonment in the former and 82 in the latter prison.

The expenditure on the Prison Department during the year 1905, exclusive of the cost of materials purchased for the manufacturing department, amounted to £4,048.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

94. Taking the population at the date of the last census (1901), and adding to those figures the annual increase which took place during the previous ten years, the population of the Colony (exclusive of the Protectorate, for which no statistics are available) amounted at the close of 1905 to 76,384. The number of deaths registered was 2,156, giving a death rate of 28·2 per 1,000. The number of births registered was 1,399, a birth rate of 18·3 per 1,000.

Except in the case of Freetown, the Registration Ordinance is not strictly complied with, and the figures given above cannot therefore be considered reliable.

In Freetown, where the figures are more accurate, the number of births was 642, equal to a birth rate of 17·8 per 1,000 on an estimated population of 36,071.

The number of deaths registered amounted to 1,071, from which must be deducted two deaths which occurred on board vessels in harbour, leaving a total of 1,069 deaths during the year, a death rate of 29·6 per 1,000. The following table shows the death rates for the last five years:—

1901	28·9
1902	24·9
1903	23·9
1904	26·7
1905	29·6

1905 therefore shows a very marked increase over the previous years, being approached only by 1901.

Apart from the deaths under the age of five years, the principal causes of death are debility, respiratory diseases, and diseases of the alimentary system. Deaths from debility and respiratory diseases predominate in the earlier part of the year, and this is due to the prevalence of very strong Harmattan winds, which have a great effect on the incidences of respiratory diseases.

The usual loss of life occurred in the earlier years of existence; out of a total of 1,069 deaths, 319, or 36·5 per cent.. occurred under the age of five years.

The infantile death rate, that is deaths under one year, continues to be very high, amounting to 461 per 1,000 births. The improvement which took place at the end of 1904 has not been maintained, as the following figures will show: —

1901	575·8
1902	466·9
1903	471·16
1904	398·67
1905	461·00

A large proportion of these deaths occurs within a few days of birth. The causes ascribed for this high rate are the employment of untrained or improperly trained midwives and ignorance on the part of mothers as to the proper feeding and up-bringing of children.

European Death and Sick Rates.

95. There were eight deaths among Europeans during the year. The causes of death were as under: —

Apoplexy	1
Pneumonia	1
Rheumatic Fever	1
Malarial Fever	3
Blackwater Fever	1
Chloroform Poisoning	1
Total ...	8

Of these, five occurred among the European population resident in Freetown, and three were landed from steamers. Taking the European population of Freetown at 270, the number as ascertained at the last census, these five deaths give a death rate of 18·5 per 1,000, the lowest recorded for many years. If the two deaths from rheumatic fever and chloroform poisoning be excluded, we obtain a death rate of 11·1 per 1,000 from climatic causes. In connection with the death rate, attention may be called to the trite but most misleading description, "Sierra Leone, or the White Man's Grave." With the exception of the Gambia, Sierra Leone (especially the Protectorate) is probably much more healthy than any other British Colony on the West Coast, not excluding Northern Nigeria. The expression "White Man's Grave" became well-known in olden days, when all the places on the coast were under the Sierra Leone Government.

SANITATION.

96. The sanitation of Freetown is a municipal work, and is carried on under the direction of the Principal Medical Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health for the city. During the year under review a sum of £1,552 was expended on the streets, and an experiment was made upon one of the five streams traversing Freetown from the mountain in order to ascertain whether, by constructing a small channel in the middle of the stream, the presence of the stagnant water in the bed of the stream during the dry season could be drained off. The experiment was a success, and one large breeding ground of mosquitoes was thus destroyed.

No progress was made in solving the difficult question of sewage disposal. From experiments made during the wet season by burying sewage in trenches and recording the period needed for nitrification, it was found, as was anticipated by all those who had given thought to the matter, that sewage could not be disposed of by earth burial owing to there not being sufficient suitable soil in the vicinity of the city.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

97. The rainfall for the year was 176·94 inches. It exceeded by 18·78 inches the fall for 1904. The highest monthly rainfall was 57·25 inches, in the month of July, and the highest fall in any one day was 8·09 inches, on the 31st of July. The highest shade temperature recorded was 98·9, in March, and the lowest 67, in January. The average mean temperature for the year was 81.

98. The following table shows the rainfall month by month, the number of days on which rain fell, together with the mean temperature:—

Rainfall Month by Month.

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Mean Temperature.
January	·64	2	82·
February	—	—	82·4
March	—	—	83·3
April	2·04	3	83·4
May	5·89	12	82·5
June	24·03	27	79·3
July	57·25	25	78·1
August	39·99	27	77·7
September	24·22	23	78·5
October	16·51	21	80·1
November	5·64	12	81·5
December	·73	3	82·6
Total	176·94	155	—

The observations from which the foregoing information is obtained were taken at the military hospital, situated at a height of 224 feet above sea level.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

99. The revenue of the Post Office for the year amounted to £10,188 (including £2,072 derived from investments of savings bank monies), and the expenditure to £8,626 (including £1,374 interest due to depositors in the savings bank for 1903).

100. The following comparative statement shows the transactions of the Department with the countries abroad during the years 1904 to 1905:—

Year.	Received from abroad.		Sent abroad.		Money Orders.	
	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Amount received from abroad.	Amount sent abroad.
					£	£
1904 ...	311,133	13,863	243,414	3,318	9,302	34,801
1905 ...	338,413	14,626	264,136	3,218	10,789	50,612

INLAND SERVICES.

101. The following comparative statement shows the transactions between the head office in Freetown and the various branch post offices in the Colony and Protectorate during the years 1904-5:—

Year.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Money Orders.
			£
1904	192,831	3,970	24,963
1905	240,754	4,828	26,843

102. From the foregoing tables it will be seen that the business of the Post Office Department as a whole has considerably expanded.

103. At the close of 1904 there were 45 branch post offices and 13 money order offices in operation in the Colony and Protectorate.

These numbers were increased during the year under review to 55 and 22 respectively in order to meet the rapidly increasing demand for greater postal facilities made by business firms and others doing business in the remoter parts of the Colony and Protectorate. The cost of maintaining these branch post offices amounts to £784 per annum, and their estimated earnings, based upon the correspondence dealt with by them and the commission arising from money order business, amount to about £952.

The total number of postal articles and parcels, including 4,747 loose letters deposited in the post office from abroad, and including also the internal service dealt with during the year, was 870,722, an increase of 96,996 over the figures for the previous year.

The postal order system, introduced in 1904, has rapidly grown in public favour, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Orders Issued.	Orders Paid.
	£	£
1904	616	182
1905	4,026	1,946

The Customs duty collected on parcels during the year amounted to £1,204, as against £1,003 in 1904.

The Colony's share of commission on money orders issued was £607, an increase of £54 over the figures for 1904.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

104. The lines of the African Direct Telegraph Company connect this Colony with the Gambia on the north and with Accra on the south, from which places telegraphic communication with Europe and the rest of the world is maintained. Messages may also be sent over the company's line to Ascension, from whence they can be transmitted to other parts of the world, and over the lines of the Spanish and French Governments viâ Conakry, Dakar, Saint Louis, Teneriffe, and Cadiz.

105. The inland telegraph service is worked in connection with the Railway Department, and messages may now be sent over the whole line (226 miles) at a rate of 6*d.* for twelve words and under, and ½*d.* per word in excess of twelve.

106. There is only one telephone line. It has been constructed by the War Department for military purposes, and it is not available for public use. With the sanction of the military authorities, connections with this line have been made between Tower Hill Barracks and Government House, the Secretariat, Police Station, and Post Office.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

107. In the Colony a sum of £3,884 was expended during the year in repairs to Government buildings and furniture. Roads and bridges in the Colony accounted for an expenditure of £1,585.

Under Public Works Extraordinary, various works were carried out at a total cost of £4,147. The most important works were:—Streets in Freetown, £1,552; new block, incurable hospital, £299; new block, Kissy lunatic asylum, £862; new block for offices, &c., Colonial Hospital, £408.

In the Protectorate a sum of £5,836 was expended on various public works; of this sum, £1,312 was spent on the upkeep and repair of buildings; £3,682 on account of the erection of bungalows as quarters for the District Commissioner and Assistant District Commissioner at Panguma, Karene, and Shegeh; £689 on the maintenance and repair of roads. The remainder was expended on various unimportant works.

Under the supervision of the Public Works Department, a sum of £509 was expended out of the Colony House Tax Funds in carrying out works of improvement in several of the towns and villages in the Colony.

WATER-WORKS.

108. The amount expended on the Freetown water-works during the year was £3,432.

At the close of the year the new water-works had been nearly completed.

X.—RAILWAYS.

109. On the 1st of January, 1905, the total length of line, inclusive of the mountain railway, under the control of the Railway Open Lines Department was 142 miles. Between the 1st January and 31st July, 1905, the balance of the line of a mileage of 84 miles was handed over by the Construction Department to Open Lines, and from the 1st of August of the year under review the line throughout its whole length has been in the hands of the latter Department.

110. The earnings of the railway during the year amounted to £57,789, and the expenditure to £52,631. These figures do not agree with those shown in the Treasury returns (*vide* paragraphs 3 and 6), for the reason that included in them are items of revenue earned and expenditure incurred at the close of the year, but not brought to account in the Treasury books until the beginning of 1906.

111. The following statement shows the receipts for 1905 under the different heads, as below:—

Goods	£13,153
Passengers	14,139
Government Transport	6,462
Construction Transport	4,936
Parcels	60
Country Produce	17,596
Luggage	377
Telegraphs	571
Sundries	495
	£57,789

112. As compared with the receipts for 1904, the earnings for 1905 show an increase of £22,037. The causes which have contributed towards this increase are the crediting of the railway from the 1st of April, 1905, with full rates for all Government passengers and goods conveyed by it, and the increased traffic in country produce brought down by rail and on goods sent up to the Protectorate owing to the opening of the Bo-Baiima section, and the tapping of the rich palm-bearing districts through which the railway passes; the construction of roads as feeders to the railway has also undoubtedly contributed towards swelling its receipts.

113. The following comparative statement shows in detail the earnings of the railway for the two years 1904 and 1905:—

Details of Revenue.	1904.	1905.
Coaching—	£	£
Passengers	11,948	14,287
Luggage	352	393
Parcels	27	60
Country Produce	8,970	17,596
Government Transport	430	5,295
	21,727	37,631
Goods	12,860	18,954
Telegraphs	541	708
Sundries...	623	495
Total	35,751	57,788

	£	s.	d.
Receipts per Open Mile	326	9	8·6
„ „ Train Mile	0	5	6·7
„ „ Vehicle Mile	0	1	0·2

114. The following return shows the number of passengers conveyed and the revenue derived therefrom for the two years 1904 and 1905:—

—	1904.		1905.	
	Number of Passengers.	Value.	Number of Passengers.	Value.
		£		£
First Class ...	3,099	165	2,368	280
Second Class ...	23,952	847	17,658	788
Third Class ...	107,357	7,458	85,197	8,033
Total	134,408	8,470	105,223	9,101

Return tickets for same period as under:—

—	1904.		1905.	
	Number of Passengers.	Value.	Number of Passengers.	Value.
		£		£
First Class ...	8,426	224	1,126	157
Second Class ...	12,073	669	8,430	551
Third Class ...	44,033	3,080	44,732	3,354
Total	64,532	3,973	54,288	4,062

115. From the above return it will be observed that 39,429 more passengers were conveyed in 1904 than in the year under review. Notwithstanding this, however, it will be seen that the amount derived from passenger traffic in the latter year exceeds that earned in 1904 by £720. As explaining this apparent anomaly, it must be observed that included in the number of passengers carried in 1904 was a large number of workmen employed on the construction of European quarters at Hill Station, who were daily conveyed by the mountain railway to and from the scene of their work, and a large number of natives carried on the main line for the purpose of disposing of their market produce. The opening up of the Bo-Baiima section of the line and the establishment of branches by the principal merchants on that section account to a large extent for the increased amount received in 1905, as the journeys now performed are of necessity longer, and proportionately higher fares are charged.

EXPENDITURE.

116. The expenditure on the railway during the year was £52,631.

The following statement shows the expenditure classified under the different heads for the years 1904 and 1905, together with the total mileage run and the average expense per mile; it also shows the percentage which each head of expenditure bears to the total expenditure:—

Details of Expenditure.	1904.		1905.	
	Amount.	Percentage to Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage to Total Expenditure.
	£		£	
Maintenance of Way and Works.	11,169	27·26	14,167	26·91
Locomotive Expenses ...	12,105	29·54	15,087	28·67
Carriage and Wagon Expenses.	3,752	9·16	4,348	8·26
Tariff Charges	7,790	19·01	11,688	22·21
General Charges	6,160	15·03	7,341	13·95
Total	40,976	100·00	52,631	100·00

	£	s.	d.
Expenses per Open Mile	297	7	0
" " Train Mile	0	5	0·8
" " Vehicle Mile	0	0	11·1

117. The amount expended from capital account (loan) at 31st December, 1905, was £959,000, giving a cost per mile of £4,359. In this expenditure is included the cost of the necessary buildings and furniture, and of the engines and rolling stock.

The engines and rolling stock at 31st December consisted of 23 engines, 46 passenger carriages, and 115 goods vehicles.

At the close of the year there were 30 stations on the line.

The coal consumed during the year was 1,859½ tons, costing £3,536. The consumption per engine mile was 17·7 lbs., and the cost per engine mile was 3·6*d.*

118. The following statement, taken from the Treasury books, shows the revenue and expenditure of the railway from the 1st May, 1899, the date on which the line was opened, to 31st December, 1905:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	4,899	10,493
1900	10,273	22,320
1901	21,394	20,315
1902	20,441	21,227
1903	36,629	31,889
1904	35,642	40,097
1905	57,788	52,095

119. With regard to the revenue, it should be borne in mind that the Railway Department was authorized to charge the Construction Department rates and fares for services rendered to the Construction Department over such portions of the line as were completed by the latter, year by year, and that consequently the annual revenue must be regarded as artificial to the extent of such receipts.

120. The railway is 2 ft. 6 ins. in gauge, and has been constructed by the Colonial Government on what is known as the departmental system, Messrs. Baker and Shelford being the Consulting Engineers. The work was commenced in 1896, and was completed in July, 1905; progress was, however, interrupted by the rebellion in 1898-9. The rails are of 28 lbs. and 30 lbs. per yard section, and the sleepers are patent pressed steel sleepers. The rails and sleepers are proving satisfactory.

121. The line is a surface line throughout its length, and in order to avoid tunnelling it has been necessary to contour more than would have been the case had a larger sum per mile been spent on construction. The result is that the mileage between Freetown and Baiima, the terminus near the frontier, is 221 miles, although, according to the Protectorate map, the distance in a straight line between the two points is 170 miles;

in other words, to traverse the 170 miles a train has to cover an additional distance of 51 miles, making the train distance 30 per cent. greater than the actual distance in a straight line between the two points. The construction of the railway has been greatly assisted by the character of the soil; almost throughout its entire length good laterite ballast has been obtainable. Laterite probably supplies as perfect a ballast as can be obtained, as it binds together into a firm yet porous mass. A traveller to whom the peculiar qualities of laterite are unknown would be much struck by the cuttings on the railway, as in nearly every case the sides of the cuttings are perpendicular, it having been found unnecessary to slope back the banks. The total length of cuttings on the railway is 87·8 miles, the deepest cutting being 35 feet. There are 98 bridges, having an aggregate span of 8,831 feet. The largest bridges are those over the Taia (580 feet), Sewa (710 feet), Ribbi (603 feet), Orogoo (490 feet), Nicol (300 feet), Wellington (315 feet), Maroon (332 feet), Male (220 feet), Moa (630 feet), Hastings and Kissy (each 269 feet), Bangue and Tabe (each 232 feet), and Bebeye (245 feet). The construction of the bridges has been carried out in a satisfactory manner. Certain defects have, however, come to light in regard to one or two of the bridges since their construction.

Taia Bridge.—Although this bridge was raised by the construction engineers 2 ft. 6 ins. above the original level, experience gained in the present rainy season seems to show that it will probably have to be again raised or a flood opening constructed near the bridge to relieve the existing opening of the excess of flood water. During the month of September the flood level of the river rose to a height of 16 inches below the under side of the girders, which does not appear to allow a sufficient space for large trees brought down by the river passing under the bridge.

Moa Bridge.—213 miles; the right-hand wing wall, Water Street end of the bridge, going to the direction of Baiima, is cracked, and from time to time the crack is grouted with cement mortar. It is, however, hoped that the defect will not involve serious consequences.

122. The maximum grade on the mountain railway is one in twenty, and on the main line one in forty. The ruling grade from Freetown to Baiima is one in fifty.

123. The mountain railway was primarily constructed for the conveyance of officials to and from the newly-constructed bungalows at the Hill Station; the line is, however, used to some extent by the villagers attending the markets in Freetown, and will in the future probably be used by "suburban residents," as a considerable amount of building for residential purposes has taken place along the line since its construction.

124. The main line was built with a view of opening up the country. For the first 136 miles the country, in the main, produces little beyond rice and market produce; moreover, out of this distance the railway suffers from the further disadvantage of having to compete with water traffic for 38¼ miles. The first 136 miles have been hitherto, and probably will remain, unprofitable, unless certain changes are introduced. One change, which will revolutionize the traffic on this part of the line, would be brought about by success in the endeavours being made to develop the cultivation of cotton, indigenous fibres, Indian jute, and, in a minor degree, ginger. The situation would also be changed if it were possible to construct a first class road, tramway, or a branch line from Boia Station (68 miles) into the rich Timne country which commences at 14 miles north-east of the station, and which stretches up to the centre of the whole Protectorate. From Bo, 136 miles to Baiima, the terminus, 15 miles distant from the Liberian frontier, the railway passes through, or within a few miles of, considerable palm belts, and it is owing to this fact that the railway in 1905 was able to cover its working expenses.

125. It is doubtful whether this country will ever be able to fill more than five trains a day (48 to 56 tons net per train) with palm kernels and palm oil during the height of the season, even if the industry should be organised and developed to a point within touch of perfection. It follows, consequently, that the narrow gauge adopted (2 ft. 6 ins.) will probably be found to be sufficient to cope with the volume of the trade, and also that such volume would never attain the large dimensions which make it cheaper for a railway to be of a gauge which permits the running of heavier train loads. In the selection of the narrow gauge, therefore, this Colony has had the benefit of the cheaper construction.

126. At the date of this report the maximum gross train load is 80 tons, or, in the case of passengers, 200 passengers, and this necessarily involves higher rates than would be the case if the train loads were larger, and if such larger trains could be filled with produce or passengers. In some parts of India a freight of one farthing per ton per mile is found profitable, but in such cases the train loads are 1,000 tons. In Sierra Leone the rate is 2·63*d.* per ton per mile (*i.e., more than ten times higher* than the farthing rate in India), but as a partial explanation the train load (80 tons) is *more than ten times less than* in India. It would be wrong, however, to assume that if the line permitted the running of heavier trains the rates could be substantially reduced, because, as already pointed out, it is doubtful whether the trade would be sufficient to fill the heavier trains. The average speed of the trains is 15½ miles per hour, exclusive of stops, 13½ miles inclusive of stops. The trains usually take water at every station which is over seven

miles distant from the last station, *i.e.*, an average of 10½ miles. These are the working figures, but under favourable conditions the speed is greater, as is also the distance run without a stop. The record run as regards speed is between Freetown and Bo, the distance of 136 miles being covered in 8½ hours, including stops. The record as to the longest run was made on a journey from Water Street to Bo; the distance, 136 miles, was traversed in 8½ hours, with six stops, the longest run without a stop being 32 miles (Driver J. W. Clifford). Hitherto a serious drawback to the mountain railway has been the excessive jolting, which not only makes travelling on the railway uncomfortable for passengers, but which is also detrimental to the rolling stock. Experiments are being carried out with a view of remedying the evil, but up to the present no satisfactory results have been achieved. It is hoped, however, that on the arrival of vacuum brakes for the engines and other parts on order for the rolling stock, the evil complained of will be overcome.

RATES.

127. On the 1st of December, 1905, a new tariff was introduced as a tentative measure. It is feared it will be necessary to raise the rates thus tentatively introduced. The new tariff provides for a system of wagon rates, by which consignors of produce may charter a wagon at a fixed rate for the transport of their goods irrespective of the class to which those goods belong. This tariff is at the rate of 2·63*d.* per ton per mile, but this rate can only be taken advantage of by a consignor who can fill the whole wagon (8 tons); the loading and unloading are done at the cost of the consignor, and the goods are carried at his risk. By paying an additional 10 per cent. on the rate, however, the consignor can arrange that the goods can be carried at the risk of the railway.

128. Those who do not take advantage of the wagon rate have to pay higher rates, varying with the classification of the goods. There are three classes of goods. On goods of the first class the rate is 150 per cent. greater than it would be if the same goods were conveyed at the wholesale or wagon rate above described. Goods belonging to the second class pay 75 per cent. more than the wholesale rate. Goods of the third class only pay 33 per cent. increase on the wholesale rate.

129. It is obvious that it costs less to run a loaded wagon at owners' risk, without obligation as to loading or unloading, than it costs to convey parcels of goods. It would be possible to have a wagon rate varying with the different classes of goods, but if this system were adopted it would in practice give a preference to the wholesale firm as against the small trader. The chief reason why the classification of goods is abandoned in the case of the wholesale or wagon rate is to

place the small trader, as far as possible, on the same footing as the wholesale firm; the small trader could not afford to fill a wagon with salt, but by arranging to re-stock his store at sufficiently long intervals he is able to completely load a wagon and thereby take advantage of the wholesale rate. The larger firms, of necessity, can only have stores at a few central places, whereas the small trader can carry on a successful business in comparatively remote spots in a trade area; it is because the small trader is the advance agent of trade that the peculiar wagon rate above described has been introduced. An incidental but by no means unimportant advantage of the wagon rate is that it simplifies the accounting.

130. The third class rate for passenger fares is 1·06*d.* per mile.

XI.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

IMPERIAL.

131. The strength of the Imperial garrison at 31st December, 1905, was 102 officers and 2,424 non-commissioned officers and men, made up as follows:—

—	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Infantry	58	1,913
Artillery	22	451
Engineers	3	42
Royal Army Medical Corps ...	10	4
Army Service Corps	3	—
Army Ordnance Corps	1	9
Army Pay Corps	1	4
Civil Surveyor	—	—
Civil Armourer	—	1
General Staff	4	—
	102	2,424

COLONIAL.

132. The strength of the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force, at the close of the year was 22 officers and 531 non-commissioned officers and men. Attached to the force, but not included in its strength, are five civilian clerks.

133. The cost of the force is borne by the funds of the Colony, and amounted in 1905 to £22,832.

XII.—CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

134. The Governor, Mr. Probyn, having completed a tour of twelve months' residential service, proceeded to England on leave of absence. During the Governor's absence, the Government was administered first by Brigadier-General Frank Graves, Officer Commanding the Troops, from the 6th of August to the 6th of September, on which date General Graves, after a short illness, died; and secondly, by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith, C.M.G., from the 7th of September to the date of the return of the Governor.

XIII.—PROTECTORATE.

Circuit Court.

135. There were five sessions of the Circuit Court for the trial of criminal cases in the Protectorate during 1905. Of these, one was held at Bo, one at Moyamba, one at Bandajuma, one at Panguma, and one at Batkanu. 95 persons were tried for criminal offences, of these, 54 were convicted, 29 were acquitted, and 12 were discharged for want of prosecution.

136. The following table shows the number and description of criminal cases tried, and the result:—

Description of Case.	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
Murder	19	11*	8†
Manslaughter	4	3	1
Rape	2	1	1
Offences against the Person including Slave Dealing.	37	22	15
Malicious injury to Property including Arson.	4	1	3
Larceny	5	2	3
Other Offences against Property	7	4	3
Miscellaneous Offences	17	10	7
Total	95	54	41

* Inclusive of prisoners convicted at the same time on the same charge.
† Inclusive of six prisoners acquitted at the same time on the same charge.

137. The civil cases heard numbered 20. Apart from one action for trespass and one for libel, all the cases were for the recovery of trade debts, the amounts claimed ranging from over £50 to £400.

138. The establishment of the Circuit Court Headquarters at Bo has had the result of greatly diminishing its cost.

139. The number of summary convictions in the Court of the District Commissioners during the year was 241. As the returns for 1905 are the first of their kind to be received, no comparison with previous years is possible.

140. The chiefs try all minor offences between natives, and consequently there are no statistics available relating to such offences.

141. The government of the Protectorate is carried out entirely through the chiefs; their authority is rigidly upheld, and every encouragement is given to them to adhere to their native customs and laws, provided that such customs and laws are not repugnant to civilised ideas of justice.

142. No statistics are available as to the population of the country, but it is generally admitted to be small. The causes, which in years gone by militated against the growth of the population have, under the settled form of government which now obtains, been removed, and there are signs that the population is gradually increasing. No census has ever been taken in the Protectorate.

143. Under the new system the registration of houses is rapidly progressing, but some time must elapse before a complete register can be looked for. Frequent patrols have been made by the District Commissioners for the purpose of collecting the tax and for the general supervision of their districts. On these patrols cases are heard and settled, and other useful work in the way of obtaining intelligence concerning the people and their country is performed.

XIV.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

144. For some years past a portion of the Kissi people, a tribe in Liberia, instigated by Kafura, a Kissi Chief, have raided the eastern boundary of the Panguma District, destroyed towns and carried off slaves. The consent of the Liberian Government having been obtained, a force of the West African Frontier Force, under the command of Major Palmer, entered the country to endeavour to establish a form of tribal government which would ensure peace on the frontier.

145. The year 1905 was the first year in which European officials resided at the Hill Station. At the very outset the idea of complete segregation had to be abandoned, as it was found impossible for Europeans to live there without having at least one servant residing on the premises. In this connection,

however, it is interesting to note that, as far as can be ascertained, no case of malaria was contracted at the station during the year; all the cases of malaria which were treated at Hill Station can be traced as having been acquired elsewhere.

146. During the year 1905 the total number of days on which European officials, resident in Freetown and at Cline Town, were under medical treatment amounted to 518, out of which number 297, or 57 per cent., were for malaria. At Hill Station during the same period the total number of days on which officials residing there were on the sick list amounted to 42, of which 14, or 33 per cent., were for malaria, but as already pointed out these cases of malaria were imported. With the exception of those members of the railway staff who live at Cline Town, by far the larger proportion of Government officials, whose work lies in Freetown, reside at Hill Station. From the figures given it is apparent that Hill Station is justifying itself by considerably reducing the incidence of malaria amongst the officials.

E. EVELYN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
18th October, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
482	St. Lucia	1904.
483	Ashanti	1905.
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena	"
487	Weihaiwei	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905.
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905.
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905–1906.
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	"
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	"
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905.
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago...	1905–1906.
505	St. Lucia	1905.
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland Protectorate	"
509	Fiji	"
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906.

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West India	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 531.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 511.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1907.

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No. 531.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 511.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
12th June, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Annual Report on the Blue Book for 1906 which has been prepared by Mr. E. E. Evelyn, Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

L. PROBYN,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR, 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The receipts for 1906 amounted to £305,074, being £23,551 in excess of the revenue for 1905.

2. The revenue for the five years 1902 to 1906 is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1902	205,767
1903	237,534
1904	240,472
1905	281,523
1906	305,074

3. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

—	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	143,538	166,657	19,119	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	3,762	3,558	—	204
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,297	3,942	—	1,355
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, Reimbursements-in-aid.	6,123	7,685	1,562	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	10,240	8,179	—	2,061
Rents of Government Property ...	298	566	268	—
Interest	9,080	6,741	—	2,339
Miscellaneous receipts	626	832	206	—
Railway	57,786	62,020	4,234	—
Land Sales	82	37	—	45
Protectorate	44,691	48,857	4,166	—
Total...	281,523	305,074	29,555	6,004

4. The increases and decreases shown in the above table are thus explained:—

Customs.

Larger importation of spirits and tobacco and the growth of trade.

Fees of Court or Office, &c.

Fees received in stamps were accounted for under their respective heads in 1906 instead of under "Post Office" as heretofore.

Rents of Government Property.

The increase under this head is due to an improvement in the method of collecting rents, and also to amounts received for rent of bungalows at Hill Station.

Miscellaneous Receipts.

Unclaimed Savings Bank deposits written off and carried to general revenue, under Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, account for the increase in this head.

Railway.

Increased receipts from traffic owing to the general expansion of trade.

Protectorate.

Increased receipts from House Tax, fines, forfeitures, &c., spirit and store and hawker licences. The fees, amounting to £760, received from pupils at the school at Bo for the sons of chiefs, which was established during the year, were also credited to this head.

Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.

Fewer cargo boats called at Freetown during the year. More steamers called at Sherbro, thereby avoiding the harbour dues, at the rate of £5 per vessel, levied at Freetown.

Licences and Internal Revenue.

The decrease under this head is due to the following causes:—

A falling off in the receipts from boat and canoe licences, owing to the operation of Ordinance No. 18 of 1905 by which only boats and canoes plying in the harbour of Freetown are required to be licensed.

A decrease under "Spirit licences" on account of the restrictions imposed by the Liquor Licence Consolidation Ordinance, 1905, which has led to the voluntary closing of several of the retail shops, and to the fact that a large number of licences for 1907 were paid for subsequent to 31st December, 1906.

Post Office and Savings Bank.

As explained under Fees of Court or Office, &c., the revenue derived from fees paid by means of stamps is no longer credited to the Post Office. This accounts for the decrease under this head.

Interest.

The falling off in the receipts under this head is due to a reduction in the amount of the loan funds in the hands of the Crown Agents during the year.

Land Sales.

There were fewer applications for purchase of land during the year.

EXPENDITURE.

5. The payments during the year amounted to £285,661, being £1,920 less than the estimated expenditure and £19,413 less than the revenue.

6. It was found necessary to maintain detachments of the West African Frontier Force in the Kissi country. The expenditure connected with this amounted to £3,473, which, together with an expenditure of £6,893 in connection with the operations in 1905, brings up the total expenditure which this Government has found it necessary to incur to £10,366 (*see* paragraph 232).

7. The expenditure for the five years 1902 to 1906 is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1902	184,940
1903	206,464
1904	237,892
1905	295,490
1906	285,661

8. The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1905:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt	49,153	48,171	—	982
Pensions	5,546	6,444	898	—
Governor and Legislature	3,674	3,719	45	—
Colonial Secretary's Department	3,493	3,859	366	—
Provincial Administration	1,874	2,002	128	—
Treasury	2,098	2,291	193	—
Customs Department	9,578	9,867	289	—
Audit Department	1,708	1,783	75	—
Port and Marine	1,074	1,032	—	42
Legal	5,177	5,057	—	120
Civil Police	8,551	8,418	—	133
Prisons	5,220	4,794	—	426
Medical	6,879	6,306	—	573
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,738	5,450	—	288
Nursing Home	670	726	56	—
Education	3,426	4,017	591	—
Transport	2,846	3,488	642	—
Miscellaneous Services	13,166	12,394	—	772
Post Office	8,626	9,043	417	—
Botanic and Agricultural	878	—	—	878
Public Works	2,367	2,602	235	—
„ „ Recurrent	6,048	6,888	840	—
„ „ Extraordinary	4,147	5,332	1,185	—
West African Frontier Force, Sierra Leone Battalion.	22,832	23,515	683	—
Sierra Leone Government Railway	52,095	56,568	4,473	—
Protectorate	68,626	51,895	—	16,731
Total	295,490	285,661	11,116	20,945

9. The reasons for the principal increases and decreases as shown in the above table are as follows:—

Pensions.

Additions to Pension List, gratuities paid to a large number of time-expired men of the West African Frontier Force, and compassionate gratuities to widows of deceased Government officials account for the excess under this head.

Governor and Legislature.

Certain items of personal emoluments for December, 1905, were paid in 1906.

Colonial Secretary's Department.

The appointment of a second Assistant Colonial Secretary explains the excess under this head.

Provincial Administration.

The excess is due to the appointment of an additional Assistant District Commissioner for the Northern Sherbro District.

Treasury.

Payment in 1906 of salaries due for December, 1905, and the payment of an acting allowance to Acting Colonial Treasurer account for this excess.

Customs Department.

Due to increases in the staff.

Audit Department.

The staff of the Audit Department was increased in 1906, and the salary of the Auditor, payable for December, 1905, was paid in January, 1906.

Nursing Home.

The excess under this head was caused by the filling up of vacancies in the staff.

Education.

The grant of £500 to the Training College at Furah Bay was not paid in 1905.

Transport.

Increased expenditure on account of Governor's tours, travelling expenses of District Commissioners in the Colony, and passages of officials to and from the Colony account for this excess.

Post Office.

More stores were imported during 1906 on account of the extension of the postal business in the Colony and the opening of branch post offices.

Public Works Department.

An additional foreman of works was appointed in 1906.

Public Works Recurrent.

The excess under this head is due to the taking over by the Public Works Department of materials from the Railway Construction Department.

There was also increased expenditure on maintenance and repairs of public buildings, and on roads and bridges.

Public Works Extraordinary.

The purchase of a site for a recreation ground and of a site for the construction of the new Public Works Offices and Stores; also increased expenditure in connection with the drainage and reconstruction of streets in Freetown, account for this excess.

West African Frontier Force.

Salaries due in 1905 paid in 1906.

Sierra Leone Government Railway.

Increase in the working expenses of the railway consequent on the development of traffic.

Charge on Account of Public Debt.

The saving under this head is due to the conversion of 4 per cent. Bonds into 3½ per cent. Stock during the year.

Port and Marine.

Less expenditure was incurred on the upkeep of boats and buoys.

Legal.

Salary of the Chief Justice for December, 1906, paid in 1907.

Civil Police.

Owing to a reduction in the strength of the force during the year there was less expenditure on clothing and necessaries.

Prisons.

Less expenditure was incurred in the purchase of materials for the Manufacturing Department during 1906.

Medical.

Saving under personal emoluments due to vacancies in the staff not having been filled and to the transfer from this head to head 14, "Hospital and Dispensaries," of the ration allowance payable to nurses and apprentices.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Less expenditure was incurred in the purchase of provisions and necessaries during the year.

Miscellaneous Services.

The expenditure for 1905 included expenses incurred in confining and checking the spread of the small-pox epidemic which raged in Freetown during the latter part of that year.

Botanic Station.

The Botanic Station was closed in 1905.

Protectorate.

The large decrease under this head is due to the repayment of the balance of the loan from the Imperial Government in respect of the operations in the Protectorate during the rebellion of 1898-9.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

10. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1906, amounted to £119,165, as compared with £104,523 in 1905.

PUBLIC DEBT.

11. The public funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,279,243, made up of:—

	£
4 per cent. 10-year Convertible Bonds ...	637,200
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock	642,043

12. Bonds of the value of £57,300 were, during the year converted, under the terms of issue, into Stock, valued £59,439, at premia varying from 3 to 4 per cent.

13. The cost of converting Bonds into Stock is borne by loan funds. During the year the expenses of conversion amounted to £371 10*s*.

14. From the amount of £1,195,838 available for expenditure on works provided for under the Public Works Loan Ordinance, there had been expended at the close of 1906 a sum of £1,134,601. This sum includes expenditure amounting to £38,392 on the following works not included in the Schedule to the Ordinance, but sanction for which was given by the Secretary of State and the Legislative Council:—

	£
Construction of roads and bridges, Protectorate	41,000
Jetties, Freetown Wharf	17,500
Customs sheds and offices	8,000
Barracks and quarters, West African Frontier Force, at Moa River	15,000
	£81,500

and leaves a balance of £61,237 available for completing these works and for railway equipment.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Freetown Municipal Board.

15. The revenue of the Freetown Municipal Board is derived chiefly from house rates, market dues, and, since the handing over of the water works to the Municipality, from water rates.

16. The Board manages the usual municipal affairs entrusted to such bodies, except the maintenance and repair of the streets in Freetown, which work is at present undertaken by the Government.

17. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Board including the Government grant-in-aid for the five years 1902-6:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	5,192	5,418
1903	5,102	4,936
1904	6,567	7,685
1905	6,185	7,163
1906	6,582	6,672

18. The Municipality has a debt of £2,800, being amounts loaned to them by the Government for the carrying out of municipal works. For the redemption of this loan a Sinking Fund has been provided.

19. The expenditure on municipal works paid for from this loan is included in the expenditure shown in the above table, and the excess of expenditure over revenue in 1904, 1905, and 1906 is thus explained.

20. In accordance with the terms of the Water Works Ordinance, by which the Municipality of Freetown is constituted the Water Authority, the Freetown Water Works were handed over to the Board in July, 1906.

The Sherbro Municipal Board.

21. Prior to 1905, Bonthe was included amongst those Districts having an Advisory Board, but by Ordinance No. 10 of 1905 it was created a municipal area and called the Port of Sherbro District.

22. The revenue of the Sherbro Municipal Board is derived from the proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees which the Board has power to levy, supplemented by a grant of £300 per annum from the Colonial House Tax collected within the Sherbro District.

23. The revenue for the year under review amounted to £854 and the expenditure to £1,109.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

24. The value of imports into the Colony for the year 1906 amounted to £885,851, being an increase of £183,203 over the figures for the previous year.

25. The following table shows the classification of the imports for the five years 1902-6:—

Year.	Live animals, food, drink and narcotics.			Raw materials.			Manufactured articles.			Coins and bullion.	Total.
	Live animals.	Food and drink.	Narcotics.	Textiles.	Metals.	Other.	Textiles.	Metals.	Other.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1902 ..	2,485	139,649	39,843	—	151	977	206,395	64,418	141,871	30,145	625,934
1903 ..	2,476	135,050	44,969	—	167	21,644	216,333	90 268	153,681	36,238	700,826
1904 ..	6,623	140,932	43,016	—	176	23,060	200,864	58,603	160,876	83,086	717,236
1905 ..	7,217	139,522	36,790	—	18	18,360	239,318	39,618	138,475	83,330	702,648
1906 ..	7,202	157,637	52,529	—	40	28,108	271,670	57,345	166,010	145,310	885,851

26. With the exception of live animals there was an increase under every item of import during 1906. The largest increase occurred under the head of coins and bullion and amounted to £61,980. If from the value of imports for 1905 and 1906 there be deducted the value of coins and bullion imported in those years the nett increase in the value of general imports in 1906 over that for 1905 is £121,223. Of the value of coins and bullion imported during 1906 over 50 per cent. was re-exported to other parts of West Africa. The remainder was required for circulation in the Colony in consequence of the development of trade, and to the fact that, to a large extent, native produce is now paid for in money and not by exchanging it for European wares.

27. The following table shows the imports for the five years 1902-1906 classified so as to distinguish free imports, commercial imports, government imports, and specie:—

Year.	Specie.	Free imports.		Specific.		Ad valorem.		Total Imports less Specie.	Grand Total, Imports.
		Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1902	30,145	46,048	5,112	142,405	4,213	338,148	59,863	595,789	625,934
1903	36,238	45,735	13,825	145,163	2,292	368,463	89,110	664,588	700,826
1904	83,086	60,054	8,436	151,878	1,292	354,812	57,678	634,150	717,236
1905	83,330	52,143	3,612	143,229	2,358	395,771	22,205	619,318	702,648
1906	145,310	77,796	2,311	164,082	2,721	452,429	41,202	740,541	885,851

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28. An analysis of the above table in respect of the years 1905 and 1906 shows that the increase in commercial imports, exclusive of free imports, amounted to £77,511 or nearly 64 per cent. of the total increase in imports exclusive of coin and bullion.

Increases of Imports.

28. The items mainly responsible for the increase in the value of imports during the year are food-stuffs, cotton, and woollen goods, spirits and tobacco; and are accounted for by increased commercial prosperity and a greater demand for these articles in the Protectorate. This is due to greater activity on the part of the large trading houses in the country who have established branch businesses in many parts of the Protectorate, and have thereby offered greater facilities to the people for the purchase of European wares. The decreases have occurred chiefly in the items of lumber and kerosene oil and are due to over-stocking in the previous year.

EXPORTS.

30. The total value of exports for the year under review was £716,623, being an increase of £153,473 over the figures for 1905.

31. The following table shows the value of exports from the Colony for five years 1902-1906, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.				Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.	Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1902...	316,794	—	77,341	9,382	86,723	403,517
1903...	331,154	—	77,330	10,147	87,477	418,631
1904...	356,024	40,052	77,875	10,919	128,846	484,870
1905...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150
1906...	526,342	43,526	121,451	25,304	190,281	716,623

32. An analysis for the foregoing table shows that, exclusive of coal and specie, the nett increase in the value of exports during the year 1906 over that for 1905 amounted to £103,866, of which £90,536 represents the increase in the produce and manufactures of the country.

33. The articles of export which are mainly accountable for this increase are cola-nuts, palm oil and palm kernels, which

are responsible for 63½ per cent. of the total increase of £153,473.

34. The following table shows the value of all exports from the Colony for twenty years, 1887-1906:—

Year.	Value.	Year.	Value.
	£		£
1887	333,517	1897	400,748
1888	339,043	1898	290,991
1889	319,719	1899	336,011
1890	349,313	1900	362,471
1891	477,659	1901	304,009
1892	420,451	1902	403,517
1893	398,664	1903	418,631
1894	426,499	1904	484,870
1895	452,604	1905	563,150
1896	449,033	1906	716,623

35. The above table, while it exhibits certain fluctuations in the export trade of the Colony between the years 1892 to 1900, shows that in the twenty years the export trade has expanded by 115 per cent. It also shows that from the year 1902 there has been a steady growth in the value of exports.

36. The following table shows the quantities and values of the principal exports of the produce and manufactures of the country in each of the five years, 1902-1906:—

Year.	Value of the Exports of Produce of the Colony to all Countries.	Exports of Benniseed.			Exports of Cola-nuts.			Exports of Ginger.		
		Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.
	£		£			£			£	
1902	316.794	213	2,006	63	735	60,516	19·10	776	17,358	5·48
1903	331,154	292	2,547	·77	759	76,354	23·06	878	15,898	4·80
1904	356.024	106	925	·26	778	80,742	22·68	885	12,743	3·58
1905	435,802	84	798	·18	769	75.728	17·38	678	7,768	1·78
1906	526,342	24	291	·06	1,155	104,084	19·77	579	10,879	2·06

Year.	Value of the Exports of Produce of the Colony to all Countries.	Exports of Gum Copal.			Exports of Palm Kernels.			Exports of Palm Oil.		
		Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.
			£			£			£	
1902	316,794	69	6,820	2·15	22,623	201,356	63·56	220,809	13,544	4·28
1903	331,154	67	6.740	2·04	22,760	196,431	59·32	232,000	14,068	4·25
1904	356,024	42	4,033	1·13	25,101	213,731	60·03	241,131	16,245	4·56
1905	435,802	32	3.210	·74	28,155	269,355	61·81	266,012	18,524	4·25
1906	526,642	27	3,945	·75	30,373	330,427	62·77	375,573	27,744	5·27

Quantities and Values of the Principal Exports—cont.

Year.	Value of the Exports of Produce of the Colony to all Countries.	Exports of Pepper.			Exports of Piassava.			Exports of Rubber.		
		Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Quantity in Tons.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.
			£			£			£	
1902	316,794	27	674	·21	66	1,104	·35	46	8,192	2·59
1903	331,154	77	1,956	·59	177	3,528	1·07	48	9,258	2·79
1904	356,024	53	1.536	·43	156	2,904	·82	68	18,055	5·07
1905	435,802	48	1,376	·31	226	3,980	·91	190	49,132	11·27
1906	526,342	37	1,030	·21	288	5,412	1·03	107	30,170	5·73

37. It will be seen from the above table that in the year 1906 increases and decreases have occurred in the undermentioned articles of export as compared with 1905:—

Increases.

Articles.	Quantity.	Value in Sterling.
	Tons.	£
Palm kernels ...	2,219	61,073
	Gallons.	
Palm oil... ...	109,562	9,220
	Tons.	
Piassava... ...	62	1,432
	Cwt.	
Cola nuts ...	7,723	28,354

Decreases.

Articles.	Quantity.	Value in Sterling.
	Tons.	£
Benniseed ...	60	508
Ginger	99	—
Gum copal ...	5	—
Pepper	10	346
Rubber	83	18,962

INCREASES IN EXPORTS.

38. Palm kernels continue to form the principal article of export and constitute 62·8 per cent. of the produce and manufactures of the country, exported during the year. The quantity

exported in 1906 exceeded that for the previous year by 2,219 tons. There was also during the year under review a marked increase in the value of the product: the average price per ton in 1906 being £10 17*s*. 0*d*. as compared with £9 10*s*. 0*d*. in 1905.

39. The following statement shows the quantities and values of palm kernels shipped from Freetown and Sherbro during the three years 1904-1906:—

Palm Kernels.

—	1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Freetown...	9,279	69,455	15,499	157,973	17,224	191,494
Sherbro ...	15,822	144,276	12,656	111,382	13,149	138,933

40. The above table is interesting as it shows that while the exports from Sherbro district have slightly increased as compared with 1905, the quantity exported from Freetown has increased by nearly 2,000 tons. This is due to the extension of the railway, and the tapping of the rich palm bearing districts through which it runs. Considering the high prices ruling in 1906, it may perhaps be a matter of surprise that the increase in the quantity of palm kernels exported during the year was not larger than it was. The abnormally late rains, however, during 1906 greatly interfered with the gathering of the kernels as farming operations were retarded, and during the period when the kernels should have been gathered, the people were still busy at work on their farms.

Palm Oil.

41. The quantity of palm oil exported during the year amounted to 375,503 gallons of the value of £27,745; being an increase of 109,562 gallons and £9,220 over the figures for the previous year. Although the increase in the quantity of palm oil exported during 1906 is very gratifying, there is still a very great discrepancy between the proportions of oil to kernels exported from this Colony as compared with the exports of the two articles from other Colonies and Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa.

No real satisfactory reason can be given for this discrepancy; but it may to some extent be explained by the fact that in those districts in which the oil palm is abundant, comparatively little rice is grown, and the people in those districts exchange the product of the palm for the rice grown in other districts. Palm oil is largely used by the natives as an article of food and for lighting purposes, and it is impossible to estimate even approximately the quantity which is consumed locally; there are no means therefore of ascertaining what proportion the quantity exported bears to the total quantity manufactured.

Piassava.

42. The quantity of this fibre exported during the year amounted to 5,765 cwt., an increase of 1,236 cwt. over the figures for the previous year. This increase is due to the good price realised for the fibre in the European markets and to the consequent increased activity on the part of the natives in its extraction from the palm. A shipment of specially prepared piassava made during the year realised £28 per ton, being £2 per ton more than the price obtained for piassava shipped from any of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates.

Cola Nuts.

43. The cola-nuts exported during the year as compared with 1905 show an increase of 7,723 cwt. It is doubtful, however, whether these figures represent a real increase in the quantity of the article exported. Prior to 1906 approximate weights were accepted for statistical purposes on the export entries passed by the traders. From the beginning of 1906, however, the weights taken for statistical purposes are those ascertained by the shipping agents prior to shipment, and there is good reason to believe that this new and more accurate method will account for a considerable proportion of the increased weight as exhibited in the table.

DECREASES.

Ginger.

44. The quantity of ginger exported during the year shows a decrease of 1,976 cwt. as compared with the exports for the previous year, but it will be observed that, despite the falling off in the quantity exported, the value of the article exceeds by £3,111 the figures for 1905. The average value of Sierra Leone ginger rose from 11*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. in 1905 to 18*s.* 9*d.* per cwt. in 1906.

The high price realised in 1906 is probably attributable to a greater demand for the article and to smaller stocks in the European markets.

Gum Copal.

45. As compared with 1905 the exports of gum copal show a decrease of 107 cwt. The cause of the steady decrease in the exports of this article has been explained in previous Reports. The trees were being gradually killed through excessive tapping, and in order to preserve them, the gathering of the gum was prohibited for a specified period by one of the chiefs in whose country the greater proportion of gum copal was formerly obtained.

Pepper.

46. The decrease in the quantity of pepper exported during the year may be attributed to the late rains which interfered with the preparation of the pepper pods for export and to reduced prices obtainable in the European markets.

Rubber.

47. The quantity of rubber exported during the year was 83 tons less than that exported during 1905. The ready sale and the high prices obtainable for this article have led the natives to adopt a method of extracting the rubber from the root of the vine as well as from the vine itself. This method if followed must in time result in the destruction of the rubber-producing vine; and during 1906 the Government found it necessary to advise the Chiefs to discourage the people from following this method of extraction. This in a measure accounts for the falling off in the quantity of rubber exported during 1906 as compared with that exported in 1905.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

48. The ports inserted on the Customs entries as being the places from which the goods come or to which they are exported are accepted by the Customs authorities for the purpose of classifying imports and exports under countries. But these statistics are not altogether accurate as the country of shipment is often not the country from which the goods were originally obtained, nor is the country to which exports are shipped always the country of ultimate destination.

49. The following table gives the percentage proportion of the value of import trade to total import, export trade to total exports and aggregate trade to total aggregate trade with each group of countries comprised in the table during the years 1905 and 1906:—

Countries.	Import Trade.		Export Trade.		Aggregate Trade.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
United Kingdom	74·0	74·24	36·0	30·5	57·0	54·66
British Colonies	3·9	2·74	10·6	13·5	6·9	7·57
Foreign Countries	22·1	23·02	53·4	56·0	36·1	37·77
	100·	100·	100·	100·	100·	100·

50. From the above table it will be seen that the United Kingdom still retains the largest proportion of the import and aggregate trade of the Colony. Foreign countries obtain the largest proportion of the export trade. This is due to the fact that by far the largest proportion of palm kernels is shipped to Germany. The export trade and the aggregate trade with

British Colonies show an increase over those for 1905. The import trade with those Colonies has declined slightly.

Import Trade.

51. Out of the total value of the imports for the year 1906 the United Kingdom supplied £657,661 or 74¼ per cent. of the total imports into the Colony. These figures show an increase of £137,517 over those for 1905. The imports from Germany for the same period amounted to £109,269, an increase of £25,868 over the figures for 1905. The value of imports from the United States fell from £21,262 in 1905 to £17,666 in 1906. It must not be assumed however that the trade with the United States has diminished as would appear from these figures. American produce is now largely imported via Liverpool, instead of coming direct from America in sailing vessels as was formerly the practice, and appears as imports from the United Kingdom.

Export Trade.

52. The total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony for the year under review amounted to £526,342, an increase of £90,536 over 1905; of this increase the United Kingdom secured goods of the value of £29,860 while Germany's share amounted to £29,565.

53. The following table shows the distribution of the four principal articles of export:—

—	Palm Kernels.	Palm Oil.	Rubber.	Ginger.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	108,148	23,207	27,042	10,852
Germany	222,274	2,317	3,123	—
Other Countries	6	2,220	5	27
Total	230,428	27,744	30,170	10,879

54. It will be observed from the above table that the value of palm kernels shipped to Germany is more than double that sent to the United Kingdom. The price obtainable for this article in German markets is higher than that which can be obtained in the United Kingdom and furnishes the reason why such a large proportion of this export goes to that country.

55. Of the total value of the produce and manufactures of the country, Germany claimed £213,824 or 44·05 per cent., the United Kingdom £121,614 or 34·51 per cent., and other countries £112,904 or 21·44 per cent.

56. There are slight increases in the exports to the West African Colonies, but they do not call for special comment. The export trade with other countries is infinitesimal.

Aggregate Trade (Imports and Exports).

57. The total value of the aggregate trade of the Colony for the year 1906 amounted to £1,602,474.

58. The following table shows in what proportions this trade was distributed:—

—	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Value.
	£	
United Kingdom	875,841	54·6
Germany	341,254	21·3
United States	17,666	1·1
British Colonies	121,319	7·6
Other Countries	246,394	15·4

59. It will be seen from the above table that the United Kingdom retains by far the largest share of the aggregate trade, but as was explained in paragraph 48 it does not follow that the whole of this trade was with the United Kingdom as it includes goods in transit from America, France, and other countries via Liverpool.

60. Germany has increased her aggregate trade with this Colony during 1906 by £55,266, but the proportionate rate of increase with the previous year has not been maintained. On the other hand the United Kingdom has increased her aggregate trade by £152,912 or £108,554 in excess of the increase in 1905.

61. The following statement shows the total value of the imports into the Colony from various countries in each of the five years 1902 to 1906 and also shows the percentage proportion of these imports to the total imports of each year:—

Year.	Value of Imports into the Colony of Sierra Leone from all Countries.	Imports from the United Kingdom.		Imports from British West African Colonies.		Imports from Germany.		Imports from France.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.
	£	£		£		£		£	
1902	625,935	455,922	72·84	21,887	3·50	70,681	11·29	5,483	·88
1903	700,827	514,970	73·48	39,530	5·64	72,559	10·36	7,018	1·00
1904	717,236	495,597	69·10	50,337	7·02	79,081	11·03	2,826	·40
1905	702,648	520,144	74·02	27,417	3·90	83,401	11·87	3,905	·55
1906	885,851	657,661	74·24	24,254	2·74	109,269	12·33	3,526	·40

Total Value of Imports—cont.

Year.	Value of Imports into the Colony of Sierra Leone from all Countries.	Imports from the United States of America.		Imports from Foreign West African Colonies.		Imports from other European Countries.		Imports from other Countries.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Imports.
	£	£		£		£		£	
1902	625,935	47,218	7·54	14,820	2·37	6,982	1·12	2,942	·46
1903	700,827	36,564	5·22	14,187	2·02	9,061	1·29	6,938	·99
1904	717,236	43,638	6·08	27,845	3·88	10,360	1·44	7,552	1·05
1905	702,648	21,261	3·03	29,171	4·15	12,092	1·72	5,257	·76
1906	885,851	17,666	1·99	50,311	5·69	19,373	2·19	3,791	·42

62. From the foregoing statement it will be seen that almost the whole of the trade of the Colony is conducted with the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, and the West African Colonies and that during the year increases in trade have taken place with them all with the exception of the United States. The cause for the apparent reduction in the trade with the United States has already been explained.

63. The following table shows the total value of the principal exports of produce and manufactures of the Colony during the years 1902 to 1906, classified so as to show the export trade with the various countries and the proportion which such trade bears to the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony:—

Year.	Value of Exports of Produce of the Colony of Sierra Leone to all Countries.	Exports to the United Kingdom.		Exports to British West African Colonies.		Exports to Germany.		Exports to France.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports
	£	£		£		£		£	
1902	316,794	109,079	45·43	32,439	10·24	142,804	45·07	578	·18
1903	331,154	105,470	31·85	35,587	10·75	145,332	43·89	792	·24
1904	356,024	122,994	34·54	38,611	10·84	147,551	41·44	470	·13
1905	435,806	151,754	34·82	34,620	7·94	202,259	46·41	473	·11
1906	526,342	181,614	34·51	46,138	8·77	231,824	44·04	332	·06

Total Value of Principal Exports—cont.

Year.	Value of Exports of Produce of the Colony of Sierra Leone to all Countries.	Exports to the United States of America.		Exports to Foreign West African Colonies.		Exports to other European Countries.		Exports to other Countries.	
		Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.	Value.	Proportion to Total Exports.
	£			£				£	
1902	316,794	—	—	31,892	10·07	—	—	—	·01
1903	331,154	—	—	43,975	13·27	—	—	—	—
1904	356,024	—	—	46,397	13·04	—	—	—	·01
1905	435,806	—	—	46,690	10·71	—	—	-	·01
1906	526,842	—	—	66,434	12·62	—	—	—	—

SHIPPING.

64. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,770 of a tonnage of 1,684,736. Of this total, 1,198 vessels (tonnage 1,302,760) were British.

65. The following table shows the total number of vessels entered and cleared for the five years 1902 to 1906:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1902 ...	638	14,416	888	1,453,572	1,526	1,467,988
1903 ...	359	11,406	981	1,676,951	1,340	1,688,357
1904 ...	426	14,652	908	1,581,262	1,334	1,595,914
1905 ...	823	11,126	912	1,605,146	1,735	1,616,272
1906 ...	875	12,097	895	1,672,639	1,770	1,684,736

AGRICULTURE.

66. Apart from the Cola tree which is found near almost every village in the Protectorate, and from the produce of which a considerable portion of the revenue of the people of the country is derived, the principal crops grown consist of rice and cassada. These form the chief articles of food and are raised for home consumption.

67. Ginger is also grown in the Colony as an article of export; there are no plantations of such permanent crops as cocoa and cocoa-nuts, for the growing of which certain parts of the Colony and Protectorate appear to be admirably adapted.

68. As was pointed out in the report for 1905 too little is known of the agricultural problem on the West Coast of Africa

to enable the Government to advise the Chiefs as to the best method to pursue in the cultivation of the land, but experiments, with a view of ascertaining this, are being carried out. An experimental farm has been established at Batkanu, the headquarters of the Karene District; the work on this farm is conducted under the personal supervision of the District Commissioner or his Assistant. During 1905 and 1906 experiments were carried out on this farm in order to ascertain whether the rotation of crop system would be successful. The result of these experiments would tend to show that the belief of the people that a second crop of rice cannot be obtained from land without first allowing the latter to go back to bush for seven years is unfounded. By deep soil cultivation and by the rotation of crop system excellent rice has been grown and the yield per acre is greater than that obtained by the natives by their method of cultivation. The experiments are being continued. Efforts have been made in other parts of the Protectorate and Colony to induce the people to take up deep soil cultivation and a large number of Kodali hoes were imported during the year and distributed to many of the Chiefs. Up to the present no report has been received as to the extent to which these hoes have been used, but in one of the Chiefdoms at least the Chief has taken the subject up warmly and his example will, it is hoped, be followed by others.

69. In a country where the people are so conservative as are the natives in this part of West Africa, it is very difficult to get them to give up the old methods pursued by them and to adopt others which would probably give them better results, and as already explained too little is known by the Government themselves of the agricultural problem of the West Coast of Africa to enable them to advise the people with any degree of certainty as to the methods which they should follow in the cultivation of the land.

Ginger.

70. Experiments for the purpose of instructing the people in an improved method in the preparation of ginger were carried out during the year. The increased prices which have been realised by ginger prepared according to this method will do much towards encouraging the ginger farmers to adopt it. A consignment of ginger prepared under the supervision of Mr. Cole, one of the leading agriculturists in the country, realised in the English market £37 per ton, a price far in excess of that hitherto obtained for ginger shipped from this Colony. (*See* paragraph 44.)

Cotton.

71. The cultivation of cotton by the natives is carried out on a very small scale. Only sufficient is grown for weaving into native cloths for their personal use. During the year the

energies of the British Cotton Growing Association were confined to conducting experiments in order to ascertain the species of cotton best adapted for this country. The Association have, however, now shut down operations in Sierra Leone, and the plantation which they had established at Moyamba has been abandoned. The quantity of cotton exported during 1906 was 39 tons.

Coffee.

72. Coffee is grown for home consumption only and is of excellent quality.

Rice.

73. This is of good quality; but the quantity grown has not, up to the present, proved to be sufficient for home consumption and large quantities are still imported from India.

Fibre.

74. There are many valuable fibre-producing plants indigenous to the country and small shipments have been made during the year. The fibres are of fine quality, and the prices realised in the European markets are good. Only one of these fibres, viz., that known as Napunti, grows by nature in large quantities, but up to the present no practical process has been discovered for the extraction of the fibre from this plant. Experiments are however being carried out, and should they prove successful, this fibre should become one of the chief articles of export of the country.

Piassava.

75. The export of this fibre has increased during the year. The palm from which it is extracted is found in large quantities in many parts of the Protectorate. The high prices realised by the natives for the fibre have led them to take up the industry more actively than they have hitherto done.

III.—LEGISLATION.

76. Thirty-five Ordinances were passed in the year 1906.

77. Further progress was made in the revision of the Laws. Fifty Ordinances were repealed and some important Consolidating Ordinances were passed, namely, Births and Deaths Registration (No. 9), Court of Requests (No. 18), Summary Conviction Offences (No. 20), Christian Marriage (No. 22), and Registration of Instruments (No. 23).

The English Company Law has been introduced into the Colony by "The Companies Ordinance, 1906" (No. 3), in which provision is made for the first time for the formation and registration of companies locally.

An attempt is made by "The Bush Fire Prevention Ordinance, 1906" (No. 5), to prevent, by means of protective belts, the destructive bush fires which occasionally devastate the country.

The subject of Sunday cargo loading which has long occupied the attention of the Government has been dealt with by Ordinance No. 16, which forbids all loading of cargo on Sundays in Freetown Harbour except under a special permit for a limited time in urgent cases. This will not prevent ships from landing or embarking passengers, mails, specie, etc., nor from taking in coal and provisions for the voyage. The Ordinance can be extended by the Governor to other ports.

The law as to the surrender of fugitive criminals has been embodied in Ordinance No. 19.

The vexed question of the title to lands within the Kroo Reservation, Freetown, has been definitely settled by Ordinance No. 24, in accordance with a recent decision of the Supreme Court. The boundaries are laid down in the Ordinance and the area enclosed is declared to be vested in the Crown. At the same time the rights of the Kroo tribe to live and build their houses within the Reservation are preserved, and rules of tenure are established. Some vested rights acquired by others within the Reservation are also preserved.

IV.—EDUCATION.

78. The number of assisted schools in the Colony at the close of 1906 was 75 divided as follows:—

Church of England	36
Wesleyan	20
United Methodist Free Church	9
Countess of Huntingdon	4
Roman Catholic	3
Other Schools	3
	75

79. The number of pupils on the roll was 8,162 and the average attendance 5,969. As compared with 1905 these figures show a decrease of 61 in the roll number and of 8 in the average attendance.

80. The grant-in-aid paid by the Government during 1906 was £1,547.

81. Owing to the lack of inducement which is held out to teachers it is very difficult to obtain the services of trained and qualified men for teaching in the schools and the education of

the children of the poorer classes has consequently to be entrusted to uncertificated and unqualified men who are unsuited for the work which they are called upon to perform. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at if the advance of education in the Colony is so slow and unsatisfactory.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

82. There are 7 schools established in the Colony for the higher education of children: 2 of these schools belong to the Church Missionary Society, 2 to the Wesleyans, 1 to the Roman Catholics, 1 to the United Brethren in Christ Mission, and 1 is a private enterprise.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

83. Furah Bay College, under the control of the Church Missionary Society, continues to be the only educational establishment in the Colony which offers to those who can afford it, the means of obtaining a higher education. It is affiliated to Durham University, and students at the college may proceed to degrees in arts and theology. Three scholarships of the value of £40 per annum and others of a less amount are given.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

84. The education provided by this school is, as the name implies, of a purely technical nature. It fills a very useful place in the educational establishments in this Colony, affording as it does to the youths of the Colony, a means of being trained in various useful handicrafts and trades.

There are three classes in the School:—

(i.) Students who take the higher course of studies which comprise drawing, geometry, elementary trigonometry, mensuration, mechanics, and the theory of the various trades. Practical lessons in carpentry, land surveying, architecture, and civil engineering are also given.

(ii.) Apprentices who are grounded in practical plain geometry, mensuration and elementary building; and

(iii.) Boys from the Mission Schools in the Colony and Protectorate who are taken as pupils on probation for one year with a view to their becoming apprentices at the end of that period.

85. Practical daily lessons are given to students in the workshops attached to the school and on the various works which are in course of construction by the Church Missionary Society in and around Freetown.

86. The School receives an annual grant from the Government of £120. Students who have passed through a course of studies at this school are, as opportunities offer, taken on as apprentices in the Railway and Public Works Department. Excellent work has also been done by these apprentices in the survey and laying out of the roads in the Protectorate which are now in course of construction.

87. The average number of pupils in the school during 1906 was 25. Of these, 8 were pursuing the higher course of studies and 17 were being taught masonry, carpentry, and other trades.

MOHAMMEDAN SCHOOLS.

88. There are four Mohammedan Schools in Freetown for the education of the children of the Mohammedan section of the community.

89. The following table shows the number of pupils on the roll and the average attendance for the two years 1905 and 1906:—

Number of Schools.	1905.		1906.	
	No. on the roll.	Average attendance.	No. on the roll.	Average attendance.
4	721	463	733	471

90. The drawback which has hitherto been experienced in regard to these schools is the impossibility of obtaining teachers of the Mohammedan faith for teaching in the schools.

91. A class has however been started for the purpose of training Mohammedan youths as teachers.

92. The school at Bo in the Protectorate for the education of the sons and nominees of Chiefs was opened on the 1st March, 1906, when 18 pupils were present; this number had been increased to 83 at the close of the year. These boys represent five different tribes, classified as under:—

Mendis	45
Timinis	28
Sherbros	2
Lokkohs	2
Konnohs	6
	83

93. Owing to the youth of many of the pupils it was found necessary to appoint three matrons, who were charged with the general supervision and care of the boys out of school hours, and who would also be available to nurse the boys in time of illness.

94. At first some difficulty was experienced in obtaining pupils; there was a natural fear on the part of the parents that means would be used to pervert the Mohammedan pupils from the faith of their fathers and from the customs of their tribes. This initial difficulty was entirely overcome by the appointment of an Advisory Board consisting of five of the leading Mohammedans in the country who visit the school three times a year and submit a report after each visit. These reports have had the effect of increasing the number of pupils.

95. There are six classes in the school, each in its own class room with its own teacher. Three of the classes consist of Mendi, Sherbro, and Konnoh boys; the Timini and Lokkoh pupils constitute the other three. This division is at present necessary solely on account of language difficulties, and as English becomes the language of the school it will be done away with.

96. The house accommodation for the boys consists of a village containing 10 native houses; the average number of boys in each house is 8, and each house has its own monitor. Six larger houses have been built for the native teachers who exercise general control over the village.

97. The subjects taught in the school are: physics, chemistry, plant life, agriculture, physiology, hygiene, geography, and arithmetic. No books are in use and the boys are taught to use their powers of observation and reasoning. The advantages of this system are already becoming apparent. In the closing months of the year the knowledge of conversational English had increased so greatly that reading was introduced.

98. The intelligent interest shown by the pupils in every branch of the curriculum, and the manner in which they have settled down to this new form of life, give promise that the object for which the school has been started will be abundantly realised.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

99. The Colonial Hospital, Freetown, contains five wards.

100. There were 67 cases remaining in hospital at the close of 1905. The admissions during 1906 numbered 1,170, bringing up the total number of cases treated during the year to 1,237. Of these, 712 were cured, 266 were discharged relieved, 93 were discharged not relieved, and there were 118 deaths.

Forty-eight patients remained under treatment at the close of 1906.

101. The number of out-patients treated at the institution during the year was 15,257. In the obstetric ward attached to the hospital 46 persons were admitted for treatment. During the year a great improvement was effected in the hospital accommodation; the completion of quarters for the apprentices and male nurses has added greatly to their comfort and to the more efficient working of the hospital.

102. Owing to the increasing number of persons seeking skilled medical attendance, the accommodation provided in the hospital is rapidly becoming insufficient. During the year the wards were on several occasions over-crowded, and steps will have to be taken to extend and improve the building.

103. Besides the Colonial Hospital in Freetown there are hospitals and dispensaries at the headquarters of each of the five districts in the Protectorate and at Sherbro. Dispensaries are established at Waterloo and in all of the principal villages of the Colony.

Nursing Home.

104. At the close of 1905, there were three patients remaining under treatment in the Home. Fifty-nine cases were admitted during the year, making the total number of cases treated 62. There were 2 deaths during the year: 1 from malarial fever and the other from black-water fever.

105. The following table shows the classes from which patients were derived:—

Government employees	20
Mercantile employees	29
Clerical	1
Military	8
Miscellaneous	1
	59

106. Of the 62 cases treated 57 were cured, 1 was discharged not relieved, 2 died, and 2 cases remained in the home at the close of the year.

107. As will be seen from the following table by far the largest proportion of the cases treated were suffering from malarial fever:—

Malarial fever	26	(1 death)
Black-water fever	7	(1 death)
Digestive system	12	
Nervous system	5	
Influenza	1	
Carried forward	51	

Proportion of Cases Treated—cont.

Brought forward	51
Respiratory system	2
Lymphatic system	2
Urinary system	3
Skin diseases	2
Injuries	1
Cellulitis	1
	62

Colonial Hospital—Sherbro.

108. The building has been enlarged and improved. A male ward and a private ward have been built, and a concrete tank for supplying the institution with water has been provided.

109. The number of in-patients treated during the year was 240 as compared with 218 in 1905. The number of out-patients attended to was 2,933.

Protectorate Hospitals.

110. There were 458 in-patients and 7,407 out-patients treated in the Protectorate hospitals during the year. These figures show a decline as compared with the numbers treated in the previous year.

ASYLUMS (COLONY).

Lunatic Asylum.

111. At the close of 1905 there were 127 inmates remaining under treatment in this institution. There were 40 admissions during the year, making the total number of patients under treatment 167.

112. The death-rate in the institution was high. Of the 40 deaths recorded 9 were from beri-beri, 7 from dysentery, and 4 from trypanosomiasis. The outbreak of beri-beri started in the old building which has now been abandoned.

113. The completion of the new blocks afford ample accommodation for the patients.

Male Incurable Hospital.

114. A new block was built during the year in which are isolated the more advanced and hopeless cases. A flower garden has also been started, which, while improving the appearance of the place, also gives light employment to the inmates of the hospital.

Female Incurable Hospital.

115. Sixty-nine persons were admitted into this hospital during the year and there were 20 deaths.

SAVINGS BANK.

116. The deposits during the year amounted to £40,030 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the withdrawals to £34,974 5*s.* 5½*d.* The amount due to depositors at the close of 1906, exclusive of interest for the year, was £68,805 3*s.* 5*d.*

117. The following table shows the distribution of the business of the bank:—

—	Deposits.			Withdrawals.		
	£	*s*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Freetown	36,701	6	11	31,881	4	3
Bonthe	1,868	7	4	1,787	15	10½
Waterloo	157	14	0	121	6	11
Moyamba	268	12	0	413	11	3
Bandajuma	93	10	10	66	15	5
Panguma	262	2	0	273	10	8
Kaballa	572	11	4	393	18	10
Batkanu	106	2	3	36	12	3
	40,030	6	8	34,974	15	5½

118. The amount of savings bank monies invested at the close of 1906 was £67,861 12*s.* 6*d.* Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum is paid to depositors and amounted in 1906 to £1,463. The amount received as interest on investments was £2,187.

119. The following table shows the transactions of the Savings Bank for the five years 1902-1906:—

Year.	Number of Branches.	Number of Depositors.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
			£	£	£
1902 ...	4	4,570	31,645	31,262	49,322
1903 ...	8	5,307	36,682	29,381	57,616
1904 ...	8	5,368	37,390	34,147	62,112
1905 ...	8	5,680	36,478	37,648	62,280
1906 ...	8	4,983	40,030	34,975	68,805

120. The reduction in the number of depositors in 1906 is due to the closing of a large number of unclaimed accounts, the small balances standing to the credit of which were written off during the year and carried to general revenue.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

121. The authorised strength of the force at the beginning of the year was a Commissioner, one European inspector, and 263 non-commissioned officers and men. During the year the force was reduced by 24 non-commissioned officers and men consequent on the establishment of a force of court messengers in the Sherbro district and the appointment of six sanitary constables for duties within the municipal area of Bonthe. At the close of the year the authorised strength of the force was a Commissioner, a European inspector, and 239 non-commissioned officers and men.

122. In the out-stations the police are armed with the Snider rifle, but in Freetown arms are only used for bank guards, money and other escorts and for drill.

123. There is included in the strength of the force a detective branch consisting of a sergeant and four constables. These men are permanently employed as detectives, and they have the additional help of plain clothes constables when necessary. This branch has done very good work since its formation in the detection of crime.

124. The school which was opened during the year for the teaching of the members of the police force has been much appreciated by the men, and good progress is being made by them. Nearly one-half of the men who could read and write when the school was opened have now passed the "efficient" standard and the remainder who were recruited from the uneducated classes are making steady and satisfactory progress.

125. The finger print system of identification of criminals was started during the year. Finger prints of over 500 criminals have been taken and registered.

126. The cost of the force for the year was £8,418.

127. The duties and powers of the police are confined exclusively to the Colony. In the Protectorate, police duties are performed by a staff of court messengers. The amount expended on the court messengers' force in 1906 was £4,905.

(B) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

128. The number of indictable offences tried in the Supreme Court during 1906 was 91, an increase of 27 as compared with the figures for the previous year. Of the number of cases tried, 65 were convicted, 17 were acquitted, 8 fell through for want of prosecution, and in 1 case the prisoner was found insane.

129. The following table shows the number and nature of the cases tried and the result:—

Nature of indictment.	Number tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Fell through.	Prisoner found insane.
Murder	9	6	3	—	—
Child murder ...	1	—	—	—	1
Rape	7	7	—	—	—
Other offences against the person.	11	9	2	—	—
Malicious injuries to property.	2	2	—	—	—
Robbery with violence	5	2	3	—	—
Larceny	40	32	2	6	—
Other offences against property.	7	5	—	2	—
Miscellaneous offences.	9	2	7	—	—
Total ...	91	65	17	8	1

130. The number of summary convictions in the magistrate's courts, including the courts of the District Commissioners, Sherbro and Waterloo, was 1,066, a decrease of 62 as compared with the figures for the previous year.

131. The following table shows the number of persons summarily convicted and the offences for which they were convicted for the two years 1905-1906:—

Nature of offence.	1905.	1906.
Assaults and other offences against the person	208	194
Malicious injuries to property	1	—
Larceny	460	472
Offences against property other than malicious injury and larceny.	1	—
Offences against Revenue Acts, Health Acts, &c.	354	285
Offences against Masters and Servants Acts ...	2	25
Other offences	102	90
	1,128	1,066

132. It will be observed from the foregoing tables that while there is a decrease in the number of summary convictions in 1906 as compared with the previous year, there has been a very great increase in the number of cases tried in the Supreme Court. At first sight this would appear to indicate that serious crime is on the increase, but an analysis of the figures does not bear out this view. Of the 9 persons tried for murder, seven of them were tried for one and the same murder, that of an

old man whose house they had burgled. Apart from murder, the increase in the figures for 1906 over those for 1905 has occurred almost entirely under larceny. This is not however due to any increase in the number of criminals; it is attributable to the fact that in 1906 more habitual criminals were sent for trial after repeated offences of the same nature instead of being dealt with by the magistrate. In the police court the maximum penalty for larceny is 3 months, and many hardened offenders no sooner complete their sentence than they are in the hands of the police again. This fact has been brought to the notice of the magistrate by the police, and the former finding that the light sentences have no effect sends them for trial in the Supreme Court where heavier sentencs can be imposed.

(C) PRISONS.

133. The number of prisoners committed for safe custody in the prisons of the Colony during the year was 840, viz., 818 males and 22 females. These numbers show an increase of 116 males and a decrease of 12 females as compared with 1905. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during the year was 209 as compared with 207 in the previous year. The highest number in custody during any one month was 223 in December, and the lowest 184 in September.

134. The health of the prisoners has been good. The number of admissions into the prison hospital during 1906 was 105, being 9 less than the figures for 1905. Two cases of small-pox occurred in the prison. These were at once removed to the small-pox hospital for treatment. There were three deaths in the prison in 1906.

135. The behaviour of the prisoners has on the whole been satisfactory although the number of offences dealt with by the authorities was 207, or 21 in excess of the figures for 1905. As however the prisoners are always in association the number of offences committed by them cannot be regarded as excessive.

136. The following table shows the nature of the offences for the two years 1905-1906:—

Nature of Offence.	1905.	1906.
Assaults on prison officers	5	5
Assaults on fellow prisoners	17	5
Abusive language to officers	3	5
Abusive language to fellow prisoners	—	4
Damaging prison property	10	6
Disobedience of orders	65	46
Escape	—	1
Fighting, quarrelling, &c.	19	3
Having prohibited articles	46	70
Idleness at work	7	17
Insubordinate conduct	9	23
Malingering	4	1
Miscellaneous charges	1	21
	186	207

137. Divine service has been regularly conducted for both sexes by a minister of the Church of England on Sundays, Good Fridays, and Christmas days. Facilities are also given to the fathers of the Roman Catholic Mission to visit prisoners belonging to their faith. The Mohammedan prisoners are allowed to hold their service every Friday.

138. The only education afforded to prisoners is of a technical nature, and is imparted by means of one of the trades carried on in the prison manufacturing department.

139. The privilege of earning a remission of sentence by good conduct and industry is confined to those prisoners sentenced to three years and upwards. During the year 12 prisoners earned their discharge.

140. There has been no lack of suitable employment for the prisoners during the year. The short sentence men have been engaged on general labouring work, such as conveying Government goods to the Wharf and the various offices, cleaning of yards in the Government buildings in Freetown and the cleaning of Government lands. They have also been employed in picking oakum and in carpentry work. The long term men have been employed in the tailoring and shoemaking departments, while the female prisoners have been given ample work in the sewing of bedding and linen for the Colonial Hospital and other Government institutions.

141. The returns from the manufacturing department show a profit of £518 2*s*. 5*d*. as compared with £386 6*s*. 6*d*. in 1905. The department also affords to long sentence prisoners the means of learning useful trades which will be of value to them on their obtaining their discharge. It would appear that the prisoners employed in the manufacturing department like their work and they are undoubtedly the best conducted men in the prison. A report against any of them is of rare occurrence.

142. The amount expended for the purchase of materials in connection with the manufacturing department of the prison during 1906 was £614 10*s*. 7*d*.

143. The following table shows the expenditure and earnings of the manufacturing department during the year :—

—	Totals.	Tailoring and Needlework.	Shoe-making.	Carpentry.	Picking.	Washing.	Stone-breaking.	Basket-making.	Tools.	Charges.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total purchase for the year 1906.	614 10 7	479 18 10	7 8 9	69 6 11½	1 10 0	0 6 6½	—	—	8 10 11	47 8 7
Stock on hand 1st January, 1906.	870 3 3	648 0 6¾	111 1 9	16 3 6	—	—	20 0 0	0 1 4	74 16 1¼	—
Total Debit ...	1,484 13 10	1,127 19 4¾	118 10 6	85 10 5½	1 10 0	0 6 6½	20 0 0	0 1 4	83 7 0¼	47 8 7
Total sales	1,091 2 7	904 8 1	58 3 4	98 14 10	11 15 0	—	18 0 0	0 1 4	—	—
Stock on hand at 31st December, 1906.	911 13 8¼	673 5 4½	82 15 4½	23 15 2	1 10 0	—	60 0 0	—	70 7 9¼	—
Total Credits ...	2,002 16 3¼	1,577 13 5½	140 18 8½	22 10 0	13 5 0	—	78 0 0	0 1 4	70 7 9¼	—
Profit Excess of Credits	578 16 9¾	449 14 0¾	22 8 2½	36 19 6½	11 15 0	—	58 0 0	—	—	—
Loss Excess of Debits	60 14 4½	—	—	—	—	0 6 6½	—	—	12 19 3	47 8 7
Total Profit ...	518 2 5¼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

144. The subjoined table shows how the profits are apportioned:—

Particulars.	Tailoring.	Shoemaking.	Carpentry.	Picking.	Stonebreaking.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Net Trade Profits	402 15 10¼	21 17 10	36 19 6¼	11 15 0	58 0 0	531 8 2½
Less Losses in wasting tools.	—	—	—	—	—	13 5 9¼
Net Profit ..	—	—	—	—	—	518 2 5¼

145. In addition to the prison in Freetown there are prisons at Waterloo and Bonthe. During the year under review 41 prisoners underwent terms of imprisonment in the former and 99 in the latter prison.

146. The amount expended on the prison department during the year exclusive of the cost of materials purchased for the manufacturing department was £4,103.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

147. The estimated population of the Colony, exclusive of the Protectorate, at the close of 1906 was 76,600; the number of deaths registered was 1,448, giving a death-rate of 18·9 per thousand. The number of births registered was 1,180, a birth-rate of 15·4 per thousand.

148. Owing to the fact that registration outside Freetown is not compulsory, the figures given above cannot be relied upon.

149. In Freetown, where the provisions of the Registration Ordinance are enforced, the number of births registered during the year amounted to 557, equal to a birth-rate of 15·32 per thousand on an estimated population of 37,000. Compared with the birth-rate for 1905, that for 1906 showed a decrease of 2 per thousand.

150. The number of deaths registered in Freetown during the year was 852, a death-rate of 23·02 per thousand. This is the lowest rate recorded for the last 6 years,—the nearest approach to it being the death-rate for 1903 which was 23·9 per thousand.

151. The following table shows the death-rate for the last five years:—

Year.	Death Rate.
1902	24·9
1903	23·9
1904	26·7
1905	29·6
1906	23·02

152. The diseases responsible for the largest proportion of deaths are:—

Respiratory system	158
Nervous system	140
Digestive system	128
Malarial fever	118
Circulatory system	34
Urinary system	23
Tubercle	17

153. Of the total number of deaths registered in Freetown (852), no fewer than 242 were infants under the age of twelve months. The reasons for this high infantile mortality have been stated in previous reports and need not be reiterated here.

154. The number of Europeans who died in the Colony during the year was 8 inclusive of the military, the same number as in 1905. Of these 3 were landed from steamers and 5 occurred amongst the Europeans resident in the garrison and in Freetown.

155. The following statement shows the European deaths for the 10 years 1897-1906:—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.	Resident in Freetown.		Garrison.		Total.
		Climatic.	Otherwise.	Climatic.	Otherwise.	
1897 ...	2	13	—	—	—	15
1898 ...	2	8	4	—	—	14
1899 ...	—	3	6	—	—	9
1900 ...	4	8	7	—	—	19
1901 ...	—	5	2	3	—	10
1902 ...	3	3	—	1	1	8
1903 ...	2	2	2	2	3	11
1904 ...	3	2	3	2	2	12
1905 ...	3	2	2	1	—	8
1906 ...	3	2	1	1	1	8

156. If from the number of European deaths in 1906 there be excluded those of persons landed from steamers (3), it will be seen that 5 deaths occurred amongst the European population of Freetown inclusive of the garrison. Taking this population at 450, these 5 deaths give a death-rate of 11·11 per thousand—the lowest recorded for many years.

157. The following table shows the Official Sick Return for the last three years:—

Official Sick Return.

—	All Officials.			Native Officials.			European Officials.		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Total number on Sick List.	372	366	308	302	281	240	70	82	68
Total number of days on Sick List.	2,879	2,593	2,299	3,369	1,913	1,768	510	680	531
Average number of days on Sick List.	7·86	7·10	6·28	6·47	5·24	4·84	1·39	1·80	1·45
Average daily number on Sick List.	7·74	7·08	7·46	7·84	6·77	7·36	7·53	7·28	7·80

158. The following table shows the number of days on which officials residing at Hill Station and in Freetown and at Cline Town were on the sick list during the year, distinguishing malaria from other climatic and from non-climatic diseases, and the percentage which malaria bears to the total climatic diseases:—

Place.	Total No. of Days on Sick List.	Classification of illness.			Percentage.	
		Non-Climatic.	Climatic Non-Malarial.	Malaria.	Climatic Non-Malarial.	Malaria.
Hill Station ...	122	65	18	39	31·58	68·42
Freetown and Cline Town.	415	272	143	122	14·68	85·32

159. It will be seen from the above figures that officials residing at Hill Station enjoyed a greater immunity from attacks of malarial fever than did those residing in less segregated places.

SANITATION.

160. The sanitation of Freetown is in the hands of the Municipal Council, and is carried out under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health for the city. During the year a sum of £2,223 was expended on repairs to streets and on laying down concrete surface drains. A scheme for the taking of levels by an expert engineer with a view to devising a proper system of drainage has been approved by the Secretary of State, and will be carried out during the current year.

161. A scheme for the destruction of street and house refuse by burning it in pits dug for the purpose, was tried in 1906, and has up to the present proved very successful. No progress has however been made in solving the difficult question of

sewage disposal. Enquiries were set on foot during the year with a view of ascertaining whether some suitable form of cesspit could be devised which would do away with the objectionable system now obtaining, but sufficient data have not yet been collected on which to base an opinion.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

162. From observations taken at the Military Hospital the rainfall for the year was 170·92 inches, a decrease of 6·02 as compared with the rainfall for 1905.

163. The highest monthly rainfall was that for the month of July, viz., 43·59 inches. The highest fall in any one day was 6·28 inches on the 15th of July. The highest shade temperature recorded was 95·6 in March, and the lowest 67·4 in October. The average mean temperature for the year was 81.

164. The following table shows the rainfall and the mean temperature for the year:—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Mean Temperature.
			Deg. F.
January	nil	nil	82·1
February	·34	3	83·6
March	1·87	2	84·5
April	·62	6	83·9
May	16·56	22	82·2
June	27·67	24	79·8
July	43·59	26	78·0
August	35·30	23	77·4
September	23·20	21	78·7
October	14·18	19	79·4
November	4·35	16	81·6
December	3·24	10	80·8

POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

165. The revenue of the Post Office for the year amounted to £8,179 including £2,187 interest received on investments of Savings Bank monies. The expenditure, including a sum of £1,463 interest due to depositors for 1905, amounted to £9,043.

166. The falling off in the postal revenue for the year under review as compared with that for the previous year is due to the fact that in 1906 the proceeds of the sale of stamps used for revenue purposes were credited to their respective heads of revenue and not to the Post Office as heretofore.

167. The following comparative statement shows the transactions of the Department with countries abroad for the years 1905 and 1906:—

Year.	Received from abroad.		Sent abroad.		Money Orders.	
	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Amount received from abroad.	Amount sent abroad.
					£	£
1905 ...	338,413	14,626	264,136	3,218	10,789	50,612
1906 ...	373,733	17,276	458,161	3,431	10,614	38,628

168. The falling off in the amount of money orders received from abroad and sent abroad as compared with the figures for 1905 is accounted for by the large increase in the value of postal orders issued and paid during the year.

POSTAL ORDERS.

169. The facilities offered by the postal order system for the remitting of money both abroad and within the Colony have been rapidly taken advantage of by the public, and the business done by this branch of the Post Office has almost doubled during the year.

170. The following table shows the postal order business transacted for the two years 1905 and 1906:—

Year.	Number of Orders Issued.	Amount.	Number of Orders Paid.	Amount.
		£		£
1905	9,130	4,026	3,546	1,946
1906	15,973	8,089	5,733	3,166

INLAND SERVICES.

171. The following comparative table shows the transactions between the Head Office in Freetown and the Branch Post Offices in the Colony and Protectorate:—

Year.	Postal Articles.	Parcels.	Money Orders.
			£
1905	240,754	4,828	26,843
1906	266,562	5,565	44,694

172. At the close of 1906 there were 51 branch post offices and 27 money order offices established in the Colony and Protectorate as compared with 55 and 22 in 1905. At the beginning of 1906 some offices which had been established at mission stations in the Protectorate were closed; the business done by them did not warrant their further maintenance.

173. The cost of maintaining these branch post offices amounted to £987, and their earnings, based upon the correspondence dealt with by them and the commission earned by the money order business is estimated at £1,269.

174. The total number of postal articles and parcels dealt with during the year was 1,124,628 as compared with 870,722 in the previous year.

175. Customs duty amounting to £1,362 was collected on parcels during the year as against £1,204 in 1905.

176. The Colony's share of commission on money orders issued during the year was £659, an increase of £52 over the amount received in 1905.

177. As showing the growth of Postal and Savings Bank business within the last 10 years, the following comparative table will be of interest:—

Particulars.	Number.		Value.		Increase.	
	1896.	1906.	1896.	1906.	Number.	Value.
			£	£		£
Letters	232,277	746,210	—	—	—	—
Post cards	6,038	186,048	—	—	—	—
Newspapers and books ...	118,782	216,198	—	—	—	—
	357,097	1,098,456	—	—	—	—
Parcels	5,688	26,172	—	—	—	—
Total	362,785	1,124,628	—	—	761,843	—
Money orders issued	8,866	7,428	59,785	93,936	—	—
" " paid	2,311	6,318	8,623	33,157	—	—
Postal orders issued	—	15,973	—	8,089	—	—
" " paid	—	5,733	—	3,166	—	—
Total	11,177	35,447	68,408	138,348	24,270	69,940
Savings bank deposits ...	3,165	6,619	19,078	40,030	—	—
" " withdrawals ...	2,449	4,585	17,307	34,975	—	—
Total	5,614	11,204	36,385	75,005	5,590	38,620
Number of depositors and amount due to them.	2,276	4,983	38,525	68,805	2,707	30,280
Amount of savings bank investments.	—	—	38,118	67,862	—	34,743

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

178. Telegraphic communication with Europe and other parts of the world is amply provided for. In addition to the

lines of the African Direct Telegraph Company which connect this Colony with the Gambia on the north and with Accra and Ascension on the south, from which places messages sent from here are transmitted to their destination, messages may also be despatched over the lines of the Spanish and French Governments *viâ* Conakry, Dakar, St. Louis, and Cadiz.

Inland Telegraphs.

179. Messages may be sent over the line constructed in connection with the railway at a cost of 6*d.* per 12 words, and ½*d.* for each word in excess of 12. This telegraph line extends over the whole length of the railway line, viz., 226 miles. In addition to this line, the construction of a line to connect Freetown with Bonthe in the Sherbro District was commenced during the year and will shortly be completed. It will be worked by the Railway Department.

Telephones.

180. The only telephone line which at present exists is that constructed by the War Department for Military purposes. It is not available for public use. With the sanction of the War Department, however, communications with this line have been made between Tower Hill Barracks and Government House, the Secretariat, Police Station, and Post Office.

A scheme is now under consideration for the establishment of a telephone exchange in Freetown.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

181. The cost of repairing and maintaining Government buildings and furniture during the year amounted to £4,438. The amount expended on repairs to roads and bridges in the Colony, exclusive of the streets in Freetown, amounted to £1,736.

182. No large works were undertaken under "Public Works Extraordinary" during the year, but a sum of £1,435 was expended under this head in carrying out various minor but necessary works.

183. In the Protectorate a sum of £3,593 was expended under the head of buildings at headquarters. Quarters for the District Commissioners at Batkanu and Panguma and for the Assistant District Commissioner at Shengay were completed. The removal of the headquarters from Bandajuma to Kennema was also effected and offices and a prison were built.

184. £1,295 was expended out of the vote for maintenance and repairs of buildings during the year; included in this sum is the cost of furnishing the quarters of the District Commissioners and other Protectorate officials, in completing the

school at Bo, and in maintaining and repairing the buildings at the several district headquarters.

185. Under the head of Construction of Roads and Bridges expenditure amounting to £1,017 was incurred.

186. Works of improvement in several of the towns and villages of the Colony were undertaken during the year at a cost of £821. These works were carried out under the supervision of the Public Works Department and the cost of them was met from the Colony House Tax Fund.

187. A sum of £549 was expended from Loan Funds in preliminary work on the Customs sheds and offices in Freetown, and on the barracks and quarters of the West African Frontier Force at Moa River.

WATERWORKS.

188. The Freetown Waterworks were completed during the year and were handed over to the Municipal Council in July. The amount expended during the year on these works was £2,306 and the total cost of the works amounted to £27,925.

ROADS AND BRIDGES—PROTECTORATE.

189. The construction of roads in the Protectorate as feeders to the railway commenced in January, 1905. At the close of 1906 the following work had been done:—

	£
59 miles of first-class road had been built at a cost of	20,650
50 miles of third-class road had been constructed at a cost of	3,750
71 miles of fifth-class road had been completed at a cost of	1,775

It was originally intended to adopt a progressive road-making system to extend over a period of five years, but it was found that acceleration was necessary. The permanent bridges on the first-class roads number 52; they have concrete abutments with wing walls and a superstructure 11 feet wide composed of steel girders and timber planking. These bridges are constructed to take a concentrated central load of 10 tons. In future it is proposed to adopt steel trough flooring filled in with concrete in place of the planking hitherto used. The bridges on the fifth-class roads are made of bush timber and are wide enough to accommodate a hammock.

190. The first and third class roads are cleared and grubbed for a width of 33 feet. The former are carefully staked out and levelled and are constructed from a properly graded working section, care being taken to obtain the flood level of all rivers and streams.

191. The first-class roads are 12 feet wide and are ballasted where required. They are constructed for traction or motor traffic. The grade does not exceed 1 in 12 and on some of the roads it is 1 in 20.

The third-class roads are graded by the eye, but the grades do not exceed 1 in 10. The bridges on these roads are constructed of hard timber.

The fifth-class road is a scientifically located bush path cleared and grubbed for a width of 16 feet.

192. These roads run almost due north and are at right angles to the railway. On the south, roads were not considered necessary, as the water-ways are more or less navigable.

193. The country through which it was necessary to make these roads is hilly and broken, and in most cases it has been found necessary to make them parallel to rivers. Freedom in choice with respect to the location of these roads is not possible as it is essential that each road should pass through a palm-bearing district. As a result of this, the roads have for the most part been constructed over exceptionally difficult country both as regards gradients and water difficulties. To overcome the former embankments or cuttings involving earthworks estimated at 400,000 cubic yards have had to be made and in regard to the latter difficulty it has been found necessary to build bridges on an average of one bridge to every 1¼ miles of road.

194. An efficient staff of native surveyors, draughtsmen, and foremen has been organised.

In addition to the work done on the roads, the chiefs have been taught how to improve their native roads and bridges.

X.—RAILWAYS.

195. The earnings of the Railway for 1906 amounted to £62,158 and the expenditure to £55,769. These figures do not agree with those given in the Treasury returns for the reason that in the earnings, as shown by the Railway, are included items of revenue earned during the year but which were not brought to account in the Treasury books until 1907. On the other hand the expenditure, as shown in the Treasury returns, includes expenditure (chiefly personal emoluments) incurred in 1905 and brought to account by the Railway in that year.

196. The following statement shows the Railway receipts for 1906 classified as under:—

	£
Passengers	18,980
Parcels	322
Goods including country produce ...	40,406
Luggage	742
Telegraphs	1,077
Sundries	631
	£62,158

197. Included in the receipts from goods and country produce is a sum of £10,434 for the transport of Government passengers and materials.

198. The receipts for 1906 show an increase of £4,369 over those for the previous year. If, however, there be deducted from the receipts for 1905 the sum derived for the transport of railway construction materials—£4,936—the increase in 1906 would be still more marked.

The increase for 1906 is due to the natural development of traffic consequent on the expansion of trade, the opening up of the country, and the provision of suitable roads to enable the people to bring down their produce to the line.

199. Owing to the change in the tariff which was made in December, 1905, and to the different classification which was necessitated thereby a comparison of the details of the revenue for the two years 1905 and 1906 cannot be given.

200. The receipts per Open Mile, per Train Mile, and per Vehicle Mile are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts per open mile	273	16	6
„ „ train mile	0	5	3·2
„ „ vehicle mile	0	0	11·1

The figures for the previous year were:—

£	*s.*	*d.*
326	9	8·6
0	5	6·7
0	1	0·2

respectively.

201. The following comparative statement shows the passengers conveyed and the revenue derived therefrom for the two years 1905 and 1906:—

—	1905.		1906.	
	Number of Passengers.	Value.	Number of Passengers.	Value.
		(Single tickets.)		
		£		£
First Class ...	2,368	280	4,706	763
Second Class ...	17,658	788	31,759	2,119
Third Class ...	85,197	8,033	94,067	10,474
		(Return tickets.)		
First Class ...	1,126	157	2,476	423
Second Class ...	8,430	551	13,915	1,073
Third Class ...	44,732	3,354	42,282	4,127
Total	159,511	13,163	189,205	18,979

202. From the above table it will be seen that the number of passengers carried during the year under review exceeded that for the previous year by 29,694, and that the receipts from this traffic were £5,816 in excess of that for 1905.

EXPENDITURE.

203. The expenditure for 1906 amounted to £55,769.

204. The following comparative statement shows the expenditure classified under different heads for the two years 1905 and 1906:—

Details of Expenditure.	1905.		1906.	
	Amount.	Percentage to Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage to Total Expenditure.
	£		£	
Maintenance of Way and Works.	14,167	26·91	18,474	33·13
Locomotive and Wagon Expenses.	19,435	36·93	20,726	37·16
Traffic Expenses	11,688	22·21	9,380	16·82
General Charges	7,341	13·95	7,189	12·89
Total	52,631	100·00	55,769	100·00

205. The expenses per Open Mile, per Train Mile, and per Vehicle Mile are as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Open mile	245	13	7
Train mile	0	4	8·7
Vehicle mile	0	0	9·9

The figures for 1905 were :—

£	*s.*	*d.*
297	7	0
0	5	0·8
0	0	11·1*d.*

respectively.

206. The train mileage run during the year was 235,982 miles and the vehicle mileage 1,346,686 miles.

207. The amount expended from Capital account on 31st December, 1906, was £1,014,991 18*s.* 7*d.* In this expenditure is included the cost of all buildings, furniture, engines, and rolling stock and additional works undertaken subsequent to the handing over of the line by the Construction Department.

208. There were no changes of importance made in the tariff during the year.

209. The engines and rolling stock belonging to the Railway at 31st December, 1906, amounted to 28 engines, 56 passenger carriages, and 145 goods waggons and other vehicles.

210. The number of stations on the line is 34.

211. The quantity of coal consumed during the year was 2,260 tons, costing £3,612; the consumption per engine mile was 20 lbs., and the cost per engine mile was 3·4*d*.

XI.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

IMPERIAL.

212. The strength of the Imperial Garrison at the close of 1906 was 96 officers and 2,516 non-commissioned officers and men.

213. The following table shows the strength of the several arms of the service quartered here:—

—	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Infantry	56	1,954
Artillery	22	440
Engineers	3	103
Royal Army Medical Corps ...	10	6
Army Service Corps	3	—
Army Ordnance Corps	1	9
Army Pay Corps	1	4
Civil Surveyor	—	—
Civil Armourer	—	—
General Staff	—	—
	96	2,516

214. The amount expended from Imperial Funds for the maintenance of the troops quartered in the Colony in 1906 was £139,606.

COLONIAL.

215. The strength of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force at the close of 1906 was 21 officers and 431 non-commissioned officers and men exclusive of 4 civilian company pay clerks.

216. During the year the force was reduced by one company. The cost of the Battalion is borne by the funds of the Colony and amounted in 1906 to £23,515.

XII.—CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

217. The Governor, Mr. Probyn, was present in the Colony for the whole of the year with the exception of the last few days in December. He proceeded on leave of absence on the 23rd of that month when the administration was assumed by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith.

During the year Dr. W. T. Prout, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer, retired on a pension after having completed 18 years' service on the West Coast of Africa, the last 11 years of which he was Principal Medical Officer of this Colony.

XIII.—PROTECTORATE.

218. There were five Sessions of the Circuit Court during the year for the trial of criminal cases in the Protectorate. Of these, two were held at Bo and one at each of the following places: Panguma, Bandajuma, and Batkanu. The number of persons tried was 42, of whom 24 were convicted, 13 were acquitted, and in 5 cases the prisoners were discharged for want of prosecution.

219. The following table shows the number of cases tried in each of the two years 1905 and 1906:—

Offence.	1905.			1906.		
	Number of Cases Tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted or Discharged.	Number of Cases Tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted or Discharged.
Murder	19	11*	8†	17	8‡	9§
Manslaughter	4	3	1	3	3	—
Rape	2	1	1	—	—	—
Offences against the Person including Slave Dealing.	37	22	15	6	4	2
Malicious injury to Property including Arson.	4	1	3	—	—	—
Larceny	5	2	3	2	1	1
Other Offences against Property	7	4	3	6	4	2
Miscellaneous Offences... ...	17	10	7	8	4	4
Total	95	54	41	42	24	18

---

* Inclusive of 8 prisoners convicted at the same time on the same charge.

† Inclusive of 6 prisoners acquitted at the same time on the same charge.

‡ Inclusive of 5 prisoners convicted at the same time on the same charge.

§ Inclusive of two batches of 5 and 3 acquitted at the same time on the same charge.

Besides the Circuit Court there are three other Courts for the hearing of cases, viz.:—

(*a*) The District Commissioner's Court,
(*b*) The Chiefs' Court, and
(*c*) The Combined Court.

220. The District Commissioner's Court has similar jurisdiction to a Magistrate's Court and deals principally with non-native cases.

221. The Courts of the Native Chiefs deal with purely native cases except serious crimes, which are tried by the Circuit Court.

222. The Combined Court, which was instituted by Ordinance No. 16 of 1905, tries petty debt cases under £5 and cases arising out of an ordinary assault or abusive language between native and non-native. For the trial of these cases a chief sits with a non-native who is appointed by the District Commissioner and confirmed by the Governor. Decisions in this Court must be unanimous, otherwise they have no effect.

223. The number of summary convictions in the Courts of the District Commissioners during the year was 282, an increase of 41 over the figures for 1905.

224. The following comparative table shows the number and description of cases tried in each of the two years:—

Nature of Offence.	1905.	1906.
Assaults and other offences against the person ...	35	69
Malicious injuries to property	5	—
Larceny	53	54
Offences against property other than malicious injury.	7	8
Offences against Revenue Acts, &c.	115	89
Offences against Masters and Servants Acts ...	—	—
Other offences	26	62
Total	241	282

225. There are no statistics available of the cases tried in the Courts of the native chiefs or in the Combined Courts.

226. The extension of the railway and the construction of roads as feeders to it have made an alteration in the boundaries of the districts necessary. It was considered advisable that those chiefdoms through which the line runs and those in which new roads are under construction should be brought under the administration of one District Commissioner, and with a view to give effect to this an Order-in-Council was passed in the month of October. By this Order the whole of the Mendi Chiefdoms lying to the north of the railway and

formerly comprised in the Panguma District were transferred to the Bandajuma District.

The names of the two districts were changed, the Bandajuma District becoming the Railway District and the Panguma District being known as the Central District.

227. It also became necessary that the headquarters of the Railway District, which were situated at Bandajuma, should be removed to some point on the railway from which the administration of the District could be more advantageously carried out.

Kennema was selected as the site for the new headquarters, and quarters for the District Commissioner and his Staff are now in course of construction.

228. The alteration in the boundaries referred to above will necessitate a further alteration in the boundaries of other districts. It is proposed that a portion of what remains of the old Panguma District should be absorbed into the Koinadugu District, and that the remainder of the Panguma District together with portions of the Ronietta, Koinadugu, and Karene Districts should form the new district known as the Central District. A part of the Railway District lying near to the Sherbro District will also be included in the latter District.

These changes had not however been carried out at the close of the year.

229. The registration of houses in each of the Districts is carried out by the Chiefs and is checked as far as possible by the District Commissioner. This work is proceeding satisfactorily, and by the end of 1907 it is hoped that it will be completed.

230. The abuse of several families living together in one house to evade payment of the tax, to which reference was made in a previous report, still exists in some of the districts though not to the same extent as formerly. Much, of course, depends upon the Chief, who, if he be a man of energy and character, discourages the practice and puts it down.

XIV.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

231. In September a cloud-burst occurred in what is known as the mountain district of the Colony, which caused considerable damage to many of the roads and bridges. In some instances bridges were completely swept away, while in others they received much damage.

232. In 1905 frequent and destructive raids into the Protectorate by a section of the Kissi people headed by Kafura, a Kissi Chief, led to a punitive expedition being undertaken against them by the West African Frontier Force. The

expedition was in the main successful, but owing to the unsettled state of the country it has been found necessary to maintain on the frontier a large detachment of the West African Frontier Force.

E. Evelyn,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
12th May, 1907.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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497	Barbados	1905–1906
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 588.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 531.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1908.

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No. 588.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 531.)

THE ACTING-GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
4th September, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone for the year 1907, together with a copy of the report thereon.

I have, &c.,

G. B. HADDON SMITH,
Acting-Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1907.

1. Sierra Leone is situated between 7° and 10° N. latitude and between 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of W. longitude. The estimated area of the Colony and Protectorate is 32,100 square miles.

2. It is divided for the purposes of administration into the Colony and Protectorate. Roughly speaking the Colony comprises the coast line, and the Protectorate the hinterland of Sierra Leone.

3. The Protectorate is divided into six districts as follows:—

Karene District.—Headquarters Batkanu.
Ronietta District.—Headquarters Moyamba.
Railway District.—Headquarters Kennema.
Central District (temporary).—Headquarters Makondo.
Koinadugu District.—Headquarters Kaballa.
Northern Sherbro District.—Headquarters Shengay.

The accompanying map of the Colony and Protectorate shows the chief administrative divisions into which it is divided, also the railway, telegraph, and chief towns and rivers.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

4. The receipts for 1907, including land sales, amounted to £359,104 1*s.* 6*d.*, being £48,594 1*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the amount originally estimated, and £15,178 1*s.* 6*d.* more than the Revised Estimate. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £13,536 17*s.* 10*d.*

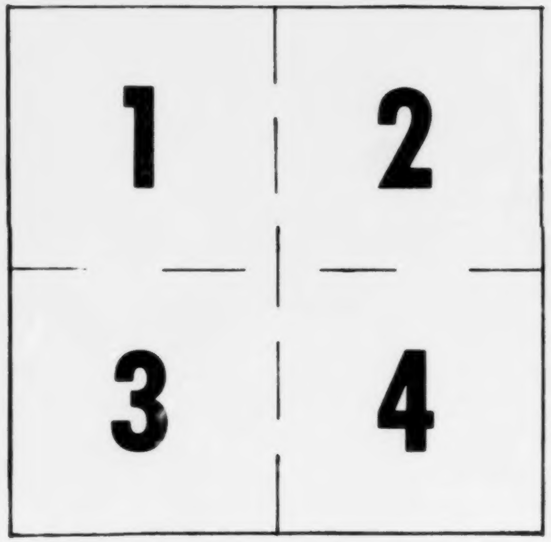
5. The revenue for 1907 exceeded that for 1906 by £54,029 19*s.* 10*d.*, the main factors in this large increase being:—

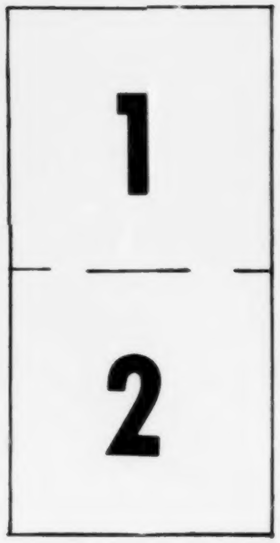
	£	*s.*	*d.*
(*a*) Customs	35,401	9	2
(*b*) Railway	12,492	13	5
(*c*) Protectorate	3,277	2	9
	£51,171	5	4

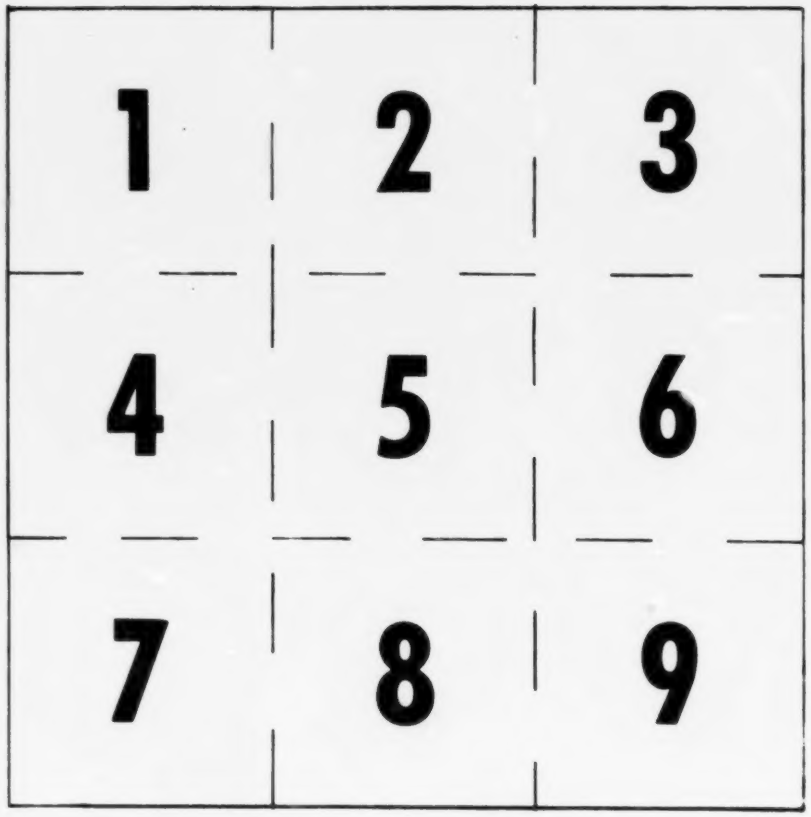
As the gradual development of the Protectorate proceeds, owing to the improved facilities afforded by the railway and roads for the transportation of produce, the effect is shown in the marked increase in the exports of the Colony, which have doubled in value during the last five years, having reached £831,299 in the year under review.

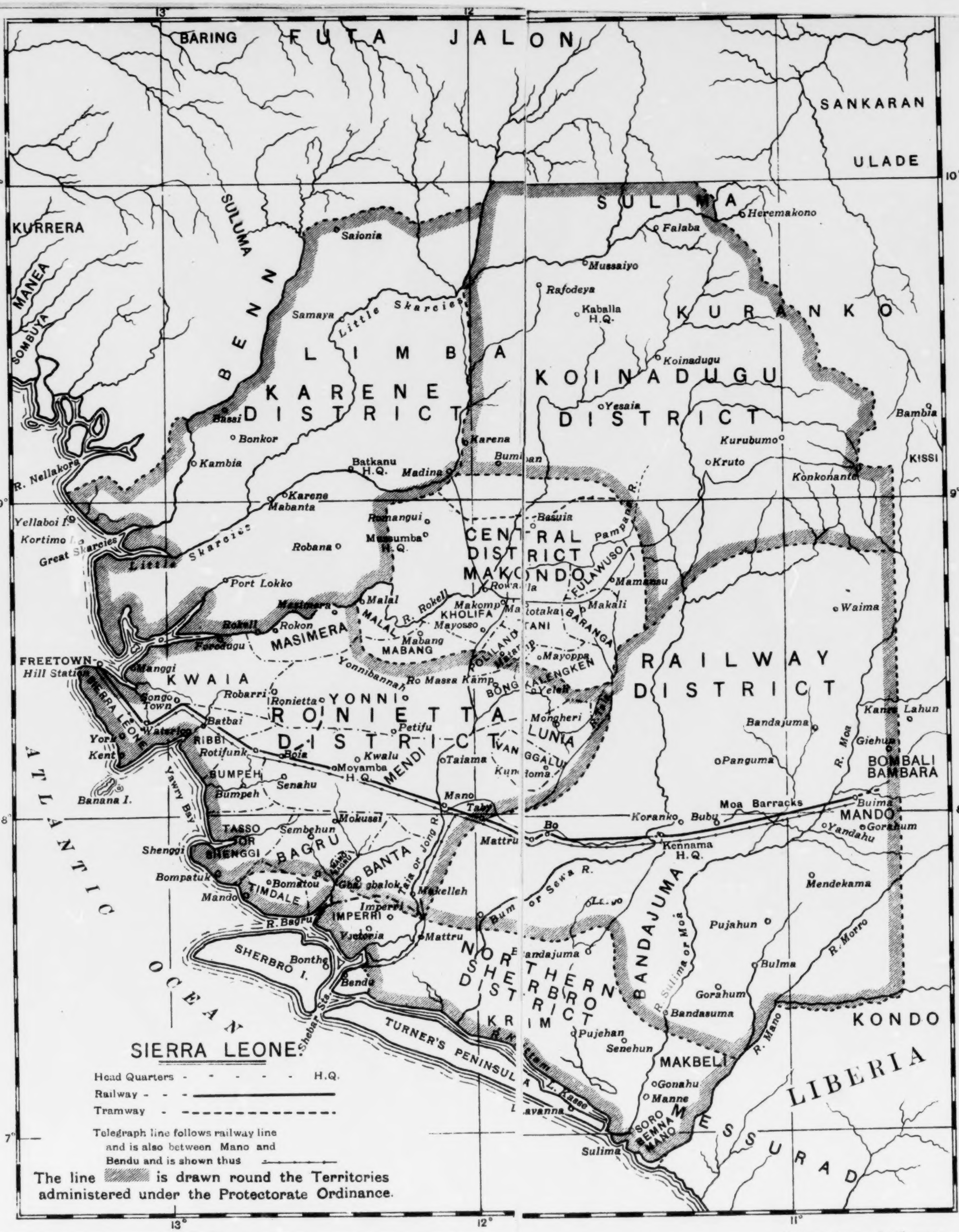
In sympathy with the increase in the exports there has been a corresponding increase in the value of imports, which amounted in 1907 to £988,022, and in the resulting receipts from Customs duties.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.








FUTA JALON
BARING
SANKARAN
ULADE
SULIMA
Heremakono
Falaba
Mussaiyo
Rafodeya
Kaballa H.Q.
KURANKO
Koinadugu
KOINADUGU DISTRICT
Yesaia
Kurubumo
Kruto
Bambia
KISSI
Konkonante
KURRERA
MANEA
SOMBUYA
SULUMA
BENNA
Saionia
Samaya
Little Skarcies
LIMBA
KARENE DISTRICT
Bassi
Bonkor
Kambia
R. Nellakora
Batkanu H.Q.
Madina
Karena
Bumban
Karene
Mabanta
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
Great Skarcies
Little Skarcies
Romangui
Mussumba H.Q.
Robana
Port Lokko
Besuia
CENTRAL DISTRICT
MAKONDO
Pampana R.
FULAWUSO
Mamanau
Rowalla
Makali
Malal
Masimera
Rokell
Rokon
Foredugu
MASIMERA
MALAL
R. Rokell
KHOLIFA
Makomp
Matotaka
TANI
BARANGA
Mayosso
Mabang
MABANG
POLLAND
Mayoppa
Waima
RAILWAY DISTRICT
FREETOWN
Hill Station
Manggi
KWAIA
Yonnibannah
Ro Massa Kamp
BONG
KALENGKEN
Yele
Songo Town
Robarri
Ronietta
YONNI
RONIETTA DISTRICT
Mongheri
LUNIA
Batbai
Waterloo
SIERRA LEONE
York
Kent
RIBBI
Rotifunk
Bola
Petifu
Kwalu
Moyamba H.Q.
MENDI
Taiama
VANGGALU
Kunduma
BUMPEH
Bumpeh
Senahu
Yawry Bay
Banana I.
Bandajuma
Kanre Lahun
Giehun
R. Moa
Panguma
BOMBALI BAMBARA
Mano
Taiama
Moa Barracks
Buima
MANDO
Koranko
Bubu
Bo
Yandahu
Gorahum
Mattru
Kennama H.Q.
TASSO OR SHENGGI
Sembehun
Mokussi
BAGRU
Shenggi
BANTA
Tais or Jong R.
Bompatuk
Bomatou
Gbalok
Makelleh
Mando
TIMDALE
Imperri
IMPERRI
R. Bagru
Bum or Sewa R.
Lago
Mendekama
Victoria
Mattru
Pujahun
SHERBRO I.
Bonthe
Bendu
Bandajuma
NORTHERN SHERBRO DISTRICT
BANDAJUMA
R. Sulima or Moa
Bulma
R. Morro
Gorahum
Bandasuma
KRIM
Pujehan
Senehun
Shebar Str.
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
L. Kasse
MAKBELI
Gonahu
Manne
Lavanna
SORO GEMNA MANO
MESURADO
Sulima
KONDO
LIBERIA
R. Mano
ATLANTIC OCEAN
13°
12°
11°
10°
9°
8°
7°
SIERRA LEONE.
Head Quarters - - - - - - H.Q.
Railway
Tramway
Telegraph line follows railway line and is also between Mano and Bendu and is shown thus
The line ▨ is drawn round the Territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

It is upon the three sources of revenue mentioned above, in the order stated, that the material prosperity of the Colony depends, as, taken together, they represent 90 per cent. of the total revenue collected.

The House Tax continues to be paid promptly and cheerfully by the natives in the Protectcrate, who are beginning to realize that the tax is one which has for its object their present and ultimate good.

6. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

—	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	162,657	198,058	35,401	—
Port, harbour and lighthouse dues.	3,558	4,083	525	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	3,942	4,565	623	—
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific services, reimbursements-in-aid.	7,685	8,031	346	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	8,179	8,767	588	—
Rents of Government property...	566	581	15	—
Interest	6,741	6,734	—	7
Miscellaneous receipts	832	627	—	205
Railway	62,020	74,513	12,493	—
Land sales	37	1,011	974	—
Protectorate	48,857	52,134	3,277	—
Total	305,074	359,104	54,242	212

7. The revenue for the five years 1903-1907 is as follows:—

	£
1903	237,534
1904	240,472
1905	281,523
1906	305,074
1907	359,104

Expenditure.

8. The payments during the year amounted to £345,567 3*s.* 8*d.*, being £45,806 3*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the amount originally estimated and £13,536 17*s.* 10*d.* less than the revenue. The Expenditure was £59,906 5*s.* 5*d.* more than that for 1906.

9. In the total expenditure stated above the sum of £41,663 19*s.* 0*d.* is included under Public Works Extraordinary (Special). This represents special expenditure on the construction of tram lines in the Protectorate as feeders to the railway, which was authorized to be met from surplus balances. The ordinary expenditure, therefore, from current revenue was £303,903 4*s.* 8*d.*, which is £4,542 4*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the amount appropriated.

10. Supplementary expenditure under various heads (including £35,000 for construction of tram lines from surplus balances) amounting to £56,230 16*s*. 4*d*. was authorized during the year, which, together with the amount appropriated by law, aggregates £355,991 16*s*. 4*d*.; but owing to savings having been effected under other heads there was a net saving of £10,42[illegible] 2*s*. 8*d*. on the total actual expenditure as compared with the total amount authorized.

11. Owing to the increased revenue for 1907, the special expenditure referred to above has not only been met without disturbing the surplus funds of the Colony, but those funds have been augmented by £13,536 17*s*. 10*d*.

12. Special expenditure amounting to £1,870 2*s*. 7*d*. was found necessary in order to maintain detachments of the West African Frontier Force on the Liberian frontier owing to the unsettled condition of that part of Liberia near the frontier. The expense incurred in this connection since 1905, when an expedition was sent against the Kissis—a warlike tribe in Liberia whom it was necessary to punish on account of their frequent raids into the Sierra Leone Protectorate—amounts to £12,236 3*s*. 6*d*.

13. The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1906:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on account of public debt	48,171	54,435	6,264	—
Pensions	6,444	7,299	855	—
Governor and legislature ...	3,719	6,216	2,497	—
Colonial Secretary's Department	3,859	3,874	15	—
Provincial administration ...	2,002	2,701	699	—
Treasury	2,291	2,552	261	—
Customs Department	9,867	11,015	1,148	—
Audit	1,783	2,120	337	—
Port and marine	1,032	1,053	21	—
Legal	5,057	5,266	209	—
Civil police	8,418	8,599	181	—
Prisons	4,794	5,147	353	—
Medical	6,306	7,030	724	—
Hospital and dispensaries ...	5,450	5,087	—	363
Nursing home	726	830	104	—
Education	4,017	3,377	—	640
Transport	3,488	—	—	3,488
Miscellaneous services	12,394	10,918	—	1,476
Post office	9,043	9,792	749	—
Public Works Department ...	2,602	2,950	348	—
" recurrent	6,888	10,164	3,276	—
" extraordinary ...	5,332	15,374	10,042	—
" " (special)	—	41,664	41,664	—
Sierra Leone Batt. (W.A.F.F.)...	23,515	22,890	—	625
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	56,568	67,460	10,892	—
Protectorate	51,895	37,754	—	14,141
Total	285,661	345,567	80,639	20,733

14. The expenditure for the five years 1903-1907 is as follows:—

	£
1903	206,464
1904	237,892
1905	295,490
1906	285,661
1907	345,567

LOAN EXPENDITURE.

15. The net proceeds of the authorized loan of £1,250,000 issued in 1904 was further reduced by £191 17*s.* 6*d.*, being the expenses incurred during the year in converting Bonds into Stock. From the amount available for carrying on the works and undertakings provided for under the Loan Ordinance and for various works subsequently authorized to be met from loan funds, the sum of £1,166,815 10*s.* 4*d.* had been expended at 31st December, 1907, leaving £28,830 10*s.* 3*d.* available for completing any works which had not been finished at that date.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

16. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1907, amounted to £131,144 19*s.* 3*d.*, exclusive of the value of the Railway Department Stores on hand at that date, which appears in a "Suspense Account" and amounts to £20,019 10*s.* 2*d.*

PUBLIC DEBT.

17. The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,280,137, made up of:—

	£
4 per cent. Ten-year Convertible Bonds	607,400
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929-1954	672,737

Bonds to the value of £29,800 were converted under the terms of issue into Stock value £30,694 at a premium of 3 per cent.

The first contribution towards the Sinking Fund was made during the year and converted into Securities to the value of £6,400 13*s.* 8*d.*, which reduces the actual Public Debt to £1,273,736 6*s.* 4*d.*

CURRENCY.

18. In addition to the current coins of the United Kingdom the following coins are legal tender in Sierra Leone:—

		£	*s.*	*d.*
Gold	Spanish and Mexican Doubloon ...	3	4	0
	French Napoleon (20 franc piece)	0	15	10
	American Eagle	2	1	0
	,, Half-Eagle	1	0	6
	,, Quarter Eagle ...	0	10	3
Silver	French, Belgian, Swiss, and Italian 5-franc pieces	0	3	10½

Although the foreign coins mentioned above are legal tender in the Colony, the gold coins are now hardly ever seen, and with the exception of the French 5-franc piece the other silver coins are rare.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at between £50,000 and £60,000.

It is estimated that a considerable amount of gold coinage is annually converted by the natives into jewellery.

There is a branch of the Bank of British West Africa established in Freetown with an agency at Bo, one of the chief industrial centres in the Protectorate.

Bills of Exchange on their principals in Europe may also be obtained from some of the mercantile establishments in the Colony.

For the convenience of the mercantile community Inland Bills for sums of not less than £25 are issued at par by the Colonial Treasurer on the sub-Treasuries of the various districts.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Freetown Municipal Board.

19. The financial year of the Freetown Municipal Board is from 1st November of one year to 31st October of the following year. The revenue received from all sources during the period 1st November, 1906, to 31st October, 1907, amounted to £9,018, showing an increase of £2,436 over the amount derived for the financial year ended 31st October, 1906. Out of the total revenue received, Water Rates contributed £1,549. This largely accounts for the increase of the revenue for the period under review as compared with the previous year.

The expenditure of the Board amounted to £9,082, an increase of £2,410 over the figures for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Board including the Government grant-in-aid (£1,800 per annum):—

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1903	5,102 ...	4,936
1904	6,567 ...	7,685
1905	6,185 ...	7,163
1906	6,582 ...	6,672
1907	9,018 ...	9,082

The municipality has a debt of £2,800, lent to them by the Government for the carrying out of municipal works, for the redemption of which a Sinking Fund has been provided.

Sherbro Municipal Board.

20. The revenue of the Sherbro Municipal Board, which is derived from the proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees, supplemented

by a grant of £300 per annum from the Colonial House Tax collected within the Sherbro district and a grant-in-aid of £152 from general revenue for Sanitary Police in Bonthe, amounted during the year to £1,440 10*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure for the same period was £935 7*s.* 0*d.*

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

21. The value of imports into the Colony for the year 1907 amounted to £988,022, being an increase of £102,171 over the figures for the previous year.

22. The following table shows the value of the imports for the five years 1903-1907:—

	£
1903	700,826
1904	717,236
1905	702,648
1906	885,851
1907	988,022

23. Sierra Leone participated in the wave of commercial prosperity which made itself felt all over the world about three years ago and which lasted until the latter end of 1907. Its effect is seen in the very appreciable increase in the Customs receipts for the year 1907.

24. The gross revenue collected by the Customs Department during the year under review amounted to £205,671, or, after deductions in respect of drawbacks and refunds of duty, to £203,803, which is £35,916 in excess of that for 1906. As no additional imposts were levied, the result is very gratifying. The amount received in 1907 constitutes a record.

25. It is a coincidence that the increase in the amount of import duties exactly corresponds with the increase in the gross revenue collected by the Customs Department. The increase in the import duties was made up of *ad valorem* duties, £6,030, and specific duties, £29,886.

26. The articles mainly responsible for the increase in the imports are gin, rum, unmanufactured tobacco, cotton goods, and kerosine oil, for which there was an increased demand brought about by the high prices given for the produce of the Colony in the European markets. The high prices received by the people for their produce enable them to gratify their tastes for such luxuries as spirits, tobacco, cotton goods, &c., to a greater extent than usual.

27. Among the imports are certain items, viz., coal, kola nuts, palm kernels, and rubber, which are not imported for consumption, but which are exported to ports beyond the limits of the Colony.

28. As most of the coal is supplied to ships calling at this port, the large increase in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared from ports of the Colony during 1907 as shown under "Shipping" would account for the increase of the quantity of coal imported.

29. Although coal does not contribute directly to the revenue of the Customs Department, being one of the items on the free list of imports, yet its importation is recognized as a commodity requiring the employment of labour and, as such, it contributes indirectly to the commercial prosperity of the Colony. The imports during the last year have risen by 7,723 tons.

30. The table published in the Blue Book shows the quantities, value, and duties collected on all alcoholic liquors imported during the years 1906-1907. It also shows the increases or decreases in 1907 in each class of alcoholic liquor as compared with 1906.

31. The years most suitable for comparison are 1906 and 1907, because prior to 1906 the quantities were computed in gallons of proof spirit instead of as at present in liquid gallons showing the percentage volume of alcohol. This alteration in the method of computing the quantities of spirits made no change in the amount of duty charged on the alcoholic strength.

32. It will be seen that the duties derived from alcoholic liquors amounted to £93,361, an increase of £19,074 over those for 1906.

33. The import duties on alcoholic liquors contributed in 1907 46·98 per cent. to the total Customs revenue.

EXPORTS.

34. The total value of exports for 1907 was £831,259, being an increase of £114,636 over that for 1906.

35. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1903-1907, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures.				Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.	Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1903 ...	331,154	—	77,330	10,147	—	—
1904 ...	356,024	40,052	77,875	10,919	128,846	484,870
1905 ...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150
1906 ...	526,342	43,526	121,451	25,304	190,281	716,623
1907 ...	675,544	44,118	96,827	14,770	155,715	831,259

36. The increase is due to the increased export of raw materials, which are responsible for £126,888, and to that of manufactured materials, which amounted to £10,816.

37. The exports of specie, on the other hand, show a decrease of £24,624. From the classification of exports for the five years 1903-1907 published in the Trade Return, which is arranged so as to distinguish the produce and manufactures of the Colony from British, Foreign, and Colonial produce and manufactures it will be seen that the value of exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony for last year shows a considerable increase as compared with the figures for 1906; but it should be explained that this increase has been caused not so much by the increased quantities exported, as by the abnormally high prices for the articles in question then ruling in the European and local markets.

38. The items principally affected in point of value are palm kernels, palm oil, and kola nuts, the increases on which amount collectively to £160,374, and account in a great measure for the excess in value of the 1907 exports over those for 1906.

39. The exports of coal show a slight increase due, as before stated, to the increased numbers of steamers which called at the port during 1907.

40. Specie has decreased by £24,624 owing to the diminution in the quantity imported during 1907 for transmission to other parts of the coast.

INCREASES IN EXPORTS.

41. Palm kernels continue to be the most important article of the produce of the Colony exported. The value exported in 1907 amounted to £447,801, or 66·30 per cent. of the total value of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony. The quantity exported during 1907 was 34,942 tons as compared with 30,373 of the value of £330,427 in 1906. It will be seen that the value increased out of all proportion to the quantity; this was due to the high price obtained for the commodity during the greater part of 1907. The exports of palm kernels have, during the last five years, been steadily increasing both in quantity and in proportion to the total value of all exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony, notwithstanding the diminution in prices towards the latter part of 1907 as compared with the corresponding period in 1906.

The demand in the latter part of 1906 and for the greater part of 1907 for palm kernels, and the consequent high prices ruling in the European markets for them, were probably brought about by the necessity for obtaining a suitable substitute for animal fats, a deficiency in the supply of which was caused by the tinned-meat scare in America, and the shrinkage in the export of fats during and immediately after the Russo-Japanese war.

42. The bulk of the palm kernels continues to be exported to Germany. Out of the total quantity of 34,942 tons 26,693 tons were consigned to that country.

Kola Nuts.

43. The quantity exported in 1907 amounts to 1,374 tons, valued at £113,674, being an increase of 219 tons, of a value of £9,590 over the quantity exported in 1906.

Most of the kola nuts exported are sent to the Gambia, Senegal, and Bissao, where they are consumed by the natives of those places as an article of diet.

44. The kola nut is extensively used by the natives in the Protectorate as a tonic stimulant. One nut well masticated and eaten will, it is said, sustain a man for a whole day without food. The kola nut has no intoxicating or reactionary effect.

45. It is a matter for surprise that the export of kola is not extended to the European markets, where its medicinal effects and sustaining qualities are not unknown. The demand for kola nuts will probably increase, and it should increase in direct proportion to the efforts made by the European merchants connected with kola-producing countries to bring the knowledge of its qualities to the notice of those who can introduce it into more general use in Europe.

Of the total exports of 1,374 tons the Gambia took 514, Senegal 559, and Bissao 249.

Trade in the article has been confined until quite recently to native traders, but of late some of the European firms established here have shown a disposition to increase their dealings in this industry, and this, to some extent, accounts for the increase in the quantity exported during 1907.

Kola nuts take second place as an export of the Colony, and represent 16·83 per cent. of the total value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the Colony.

Palm Oil.

46. The quantity of palm oil exported during the year amounted to 615,997 gallons, of the value of £51,154, being an increase over the figures for 1906 of 240,424 gallons, of the value of £23,410. These figures represent an increase of 64 per cent. in quantity and 84·37 per cent. in value over the exports for 1906.

This large increase is undoubtedly due to the high prices prevailing for the greater part of 1907, but the demand would have remained unsatisfied to a large extent as far as this Colony was concerned, had the difficulties of transport not been largely overcome by the improved facilities afforded by the Sierra Leone Government Railway and by the excellent system of roads which have now been opened up in the principal palm-oil producing districts of the Protectorate. In addition to this, the action of the Government in encouraging the output of palm oil by assisting the people to obtain receptacles in which to transport their oil and by persuading the native chiefs to amend the Porroh Law so as to allow of the picking of the palm nuts at the most suitable time for the extraction of the oil made itself felt throughout the Administration—official and native—and gave an additional impulse to the production of the commodity.

47. There is a difference between the proportion of oil to kernels exported from this Colony as compared with the exports of the two articles from the other British Colonies and Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa. A table published in the Trade Report gives full particulars of this difference. What the causes of it are it is impossible, owing to insufficient data, to state definitely, but there are many factors which contribute in a greater or lesser degree to the result: probably the most important of them is that, owing to the scarcity of labour, which prevents the picking of the nuts from the trees at the period when the pericarp or oil-producing covering is full of oil, a large proportion of the kernels exported are gathered from the ground where they have fallen from the trees after the oil-producing covering has perished.

Ginger.

48. The exports for 1907, which amounted to 618 tons, of a value of £11,578, show an increase of 39 tons, valued at £699, compared with the figures for 1906.

Considerable attention has been paid by some of the farmers to the better cultivation and preparation of ginger for the market, but there still remains much to be done.

There is a future for the ginger of Sierra Leone, but it will not compete seriously with other and better-known gingers until improved methods of cultivation and preparation for the market are more generally adopted.

Rice.

49. The quantity of rice exported during 1907 has been the largest on record. It amounted to 30,768 bushels, valued at £5,635. This is an increase of 8,370 bushels, of a value of £2,055 over that exported in 1906.

Some years ago the quantity of rice exported was inconsiderable, and it is a sign of the Colony's advancement that the export has increased to the proportion it now assumes. As a result of the increase in production less rice has been imported. As rice is still the staple article of diet of the natives of Sierra Leone, the conclusion to be drawn is that the quantity exported represents the surplus remaining after local requirements have been satisfied.

50. The locally-grown rice is preferred both by natives and Europeans to the imported Indian rice, both on account of its flavour and of its more nourishing properties. The increase in the exports would seem to show that these advantages are also being recognized in other places, and as it gets better known the exports from Sierra Leone should increase.

At present nearly the whole quantity exported finds its way to the other West African Colonies.

DECREASES IN EXPORT.

Benniseed.

51. Benniseed, the exports of which have been languishing for some years, has now entirely disappeared from the list of exports, not one pound being exported in 1907. Benniseed is no longer cultivated as an article of export. The prices obtained for it in the local market have of late years been more remunerative to the producer than those obtainable in markets out of the Colony, and the quantity now grown is only sufficient for home consumption.

It was formerly exported to the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

Rubber.

52. The exports of this product during the year again show a falling off, the quantity shipped during 1907 being 73 tons, valued at £22,480, as compared with 107 tons, valued at £30,170 in 1906.

53. It is probable that one of the causes contributing to this decrease is the action taken by some of the chiefs to prevent the ruthless tapping and destruction of the rubber-producing plants which formerly obtained. They are gradually realizing that if they allow this wasteful method to continue the source of the supply will be eventually destroyed.

Another cause of the decrease is the duty charged on all rubber exported from Liberia into Sierra Leone across the frontier, which has had the effect of putting a stop to the trade which formerly existed.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

54. Before making any remarks under this head it should be explained that the ports mentioned in the Blue Book as being the places from which the goods are imported are not necessarily the places from which the goods were originally obtained; similarly the countries to which exports are shipped are not always the countries of ultimate destination. Were this so, the trade with the United States of America would appear considerably larger than is shown, as all the American products and manufactures passing in transit through Liverpool to this Colony are shown as imports from the United Kingdom.

Formerly American goods came direct from America in sailing ships, but now comparatively few of the imports from that country come direct.

55. The following table shows the percentage proportion of the value of the import trade to total imports, export trade to total exports, and aggregate trade with the United Kingdom, British Colonies and with foreign countries during the years 1906 and 1907:—

Countries.	Import trade.		Export trade.		Aggregate trade.	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
United Kingdom...	74·24	71·73	30·5	27·5	54·66	51·50
British Colonies ...	2·74	2·30	13·5	9·1	7·57	5·40
Foreign Countries	23·02	25·97	56·0	63·4	37·77	43·10
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100

From the above table it will be seen that the United Kingdom still retains the largest proportion of the import and aggregate trade of the Colony, though the percentage proportion in 1907 compared with 1906 has been reduced by 3·16.

It is significant of the direction of the trade of the Colony that in spite of the system referred to in paragraph 54 the position held by the United Kingdom with respect to the aggregate trade of the Colony has within the last five years been weakened by 5·90 per cent.; the value of such trade has, however, increased by £294,313. The decrease in 1907 appears both in the import and export trade. The aggregate trade with British Colonies has also decreased by 2·17 per cent. On the other hand foreign countries have increased throughout, raising their share of the aggregate trade by 5·33 per cent. in 1907 as compared with 1906.

Foreign countries still continue to absorb the largest proportion of the export trade. This is due to the fact that by far the largest proportion of palm kernels is shipped to Germany.

IMPORT TRADE.

56. The United Kingdom, Holland, Teneriffe, the United States of America, the foreign countries on the West Coast of Africa (more briefly described as the Windward Coast), and the foreign countries on the West Coast of Africa to the south of Sierra Leone (described as the Leeward Coast), are responsible for the principal increases in the imports for 1907 as compared with 1906.

57. The value of the import trade carried on with the United Kingdom is greater than that with any other country

with which we are engaged in trade, and amounted in 1907 to £708,765 as compared with £657,661 in 1906. The increase is attributable to larger importations of wearing apparel, cotton goods, hats and caps, hardware, refined sugar, and woollen goods.

The United Kingdom absorbs 71·74 per cent. of the total import trade of this Colony; Germany comes next; but the value is still insignificant when compared with the United Kingdom. In both cases, however, the percentage in 1907 was less than 1906.

The improvement under Teneriffe is due to larger importations of specie which is imported by the Bank of British West Africa from its agents at that place.

Specie is also responsible for the rise under Leeward Coast. Live stock (principally bullocks) and rubber contributed mainly to the increase in the Windward Coast.

58. It is a matter for regret that the demand for cattle as a food supply cannot be met locally, but the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, except in a few parts, is not suitable for cattle raising on a large scale. For the most part those portions of the country which are not cultivated are covered by dense bush, and it is only in the Koinadugu district and in some parts of the Karene, Ronietta, and Central districts that pasturage is to be found. In these parts cattle are raised to a certain extent, but their number is, comparatively speaking, insignificant. The presence of the tsetse fly also renders the raising of cattle on an extensive scale impracticable.

In those parts of the country where cattle raising is carried on efforts are being made to induce the chiefs to improve their cattle by adopting the method of breeding by selection.

59. The imports from the United States of America amounted to £25,743, but the explanation mentioned in paragraph 54 must be borne in mind when considering these figures.

But for the present system of preparing the import statistics, the United States of America would rank next to the United Kingdom in the volume of imports. The articles principally imported from the United States are lumber, petroleum, unmanufactured tobacco, and flour.

EXPORT TRADE.

60. The returns of the total export trade carried on with various countries again show increases in value, the most important being with the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the Leeward Coast. In regard to the decreases, the Windward Coast and Liberia are most marked.

61. The total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony for the year under review amounted to £675,544, or an increase of £149,202 over 1906.

The items which contributed in the greatest measure to the value of the exports to the United Kingdom are ginger, gum copal, palm oil, and palm kernels. Most of the palm oil still continues to be exported to the United Kingdom. Out of the total shipment of 615,997 gallons in 1907 no less than 552,901 gallons were so consigned.

62. The increase in the exports to Germany which took place in 1906 has been maintained. In 1907 the value of the exports to that country amounted to £118,896, or 51·28 per cent. over that for the previous year. The value of exports to Germany represents more than half the total value, and represents 51·92 per cent. of the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony. She has therefore advanced the position she held in 1906 by 7·88 per cent.

Practically the whole of the exports to Germany (£350,720) is made up of palm kernels, the value of which in 1907 amounted to £339,836. As explaining this it may be stated that the price obtained in Germany for kernels is higher than in the other European markets.

63. The trade with foreign West African countries has increased in value but decreased in percentage proportion. It consists principally of kola nuts and rice.

SHIPPING.

64. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,916 of a tonnage of 1,890,531. Compared with 1906 this shows an increase of 149 vessels of 205,795 tons. Of the total for 1907, 1,290 vessels of a tonnage of 1,456,906 were British.

65. British and German shipping together represent 85·92 per cent. of the total tonnage entered from all countries.

66. The returns for 1907 show a total tonnage of 727,983 entered under the British flag and 84,074 under the German flag, or 77·01 per cent. and 8·91 per cent., respectively, of the total tonnage entered.

67. The following statement gives the nationalities and tonnage of the ships entered and cleared during the year as compared with 1906:—

Nationality.	1906. No.	1907. No.	1906. Tons.	1907. Tons.
British	1,198	1,290	1,302,760	1,456,906
French	312	323	10,624	14,132
German	124	152	126,364	170,806
Spanish	24	22	40,104	36,762
Belgian	72	68	197,616	200,394
Portuguese	29	40	634	728
American	11	9	6,634	6,693
Norwegian	—	4	—	4,068
Liberian	—	8	—	42
Total	1,770	1,916	1,684,736	1,890,531

68. The following table shows the total number of vessels entered and cleared for five years 1903-1907:—

Year.	Number entered and cleared.
1903	1,340
1904	1,334
1905	1,735
1906	1,770
1907	1,916

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

69. The progress made in the agricultural development of the country has necessarily been slow, but there are indications that the results achieved on the experimental farm established at the headquarters of the Karene district and conducted under the personal supervision of the District Commissioner or his assistant have greatly impressed the chiefs in that district, and are affecting to some extent the primitive methods of cultivation in vogue among the people. The example set by the people in the Karene district, and the establishment of other experimental farms on similar lines at the headquarters of some of the other districts, will, it is hoped, in time cause a general improvement in agricultural methods throughout the Protectorate.

70. During the year under review attention has been directed to the cultivation of rubber, ginger, and fibres.

Ginger.—Hitherto the cultivation of this product has been confined to the Colony, but the introduction of improved methods of preparation resulting in better prices being obtained in the European markets, and the establishment of a Farmers' Association, have done much to increase the output of this article, and its cultivation has now extended to the Ronietta district of the Protectorate. The crop which was obtained in that district proved to be of better quality than that grown in the Colony.

Fibres.—Experiments were carried out under Government supervision in the cultivation of the indigenous Kowe fibre and of the Okra (*Hibiscus esculentus*). Samples of the latter fibre were forwarded to the Imperial Institute for examination and report.

Ramie.—Under the auspices of the British West African Produce Company the cultivation of this plant is being carried on on a somewhat comparatively extensive scale in the Protectorate, and plantations have been established at Kangahun, Mabang, and Mano. The plants are growing well and are promising.

III.—LEGISLATION.

71. Thirty-six Ordinances were passed in 1907, of which 19 were amending Ordinances, 3 consolidating, 1 continuing, 3 repeal, and 10 were new Ordinances.

72. As a preliminary measure to the revision of the Laws of the Colony, two important repealing Ordinances were passed in 1907—Ordinances Nos. 14 and 32 of 1907, respectively, which repeal 236 obsolete or spent Ordinances. On the whole 257 Ordinances were repealed, but the provisions of some of them are embodied in the consolidating and amending Ordinances.

Of the consolidating Ordinances the two most important are "The Police Ordinance, 1907" (No. 18 of 1907), and the "Coroners Ordinance, 1907" (No. 33 of 1907).

Number 11 of 1907—The Prevention of Corruption Ordinance, 1907—was passed reproducing Chapter 34 of the Imperial Statutes 6 Edward VII., with some amendments and proceedings in prosecution under the Ordinance cannot now be instituted without the consent of the Attorney-General.

Other new and important enactments are:—

"The Mohammedan Education Ordinance, 1907" (No. 2 of 1907).

"The Shipping Casualties, Wrecks, and Salvage Ordinance, 1907" (No. 15 of 1907).

"The Foreign Judgments Extension Ordinance, 1907" (No. 17 of 1907), which provides for the enforcement in the Colony and Protectorate of Judgments or Decrees issued in other British Possessions or Protectorates.

"The Circuit Court Bailiffs Ordinance" (No. 22 of 1907); and

"The Court Messengers Ordinance, 1907" (No. 31 of 1907).

IV.—EDUCATION.

73. The number of schools in the Colony is 83, distinguished as follows:—

Primary Education	75
Secondary ,, ...	7
Higher ,, ...	1

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

74. The schools belong principally to the several denominations. The following table shows how they are distributed and the number of pupils collectively attending them:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number of pupils on the Rolls.
Church of England	36	3,435
Wesleyan	20	2,648
United Methodist Free Church	9	767
Countess of Huntingdon ...	4	359
Roman Catholic	3	410
Other Schools	3	174
		7,793

75. The number on the roll, as shown above, was, 7,793, while the average attendance was only 5,547. As compared with 1906 these figures show a decrease of 369 in the roll number and of 422 in the average attendance. The attendances for the past year are the lowest for the last ten years.

76. The reason assigned for this serious decline in the roll number and in the number of attendances at school is that the parents of the school children leave Freetown for the Protectorate, where there are greater opportunities for making money by trading. This migration of traders into the Protectorate does, no doubt, affect the case to a certain extent, but as in the majority of cases the traders leave their children behind in Freetown to be educated, the reason given does not satistorily account for the decrease. Probably the real cause is that education in Sierra Leone is not compulsory.

77. It must be remembered that while the traders emigrate to the Protectorate the labourers immigrate to the Colony, and many of them marry and settle here, so that the emigration of the traders would not affect the attendances to such a marked degree as they do, were education compulsory in Sierra Leone.

78. As regards the decrease in the number of attendances there are other reasons which must also be taken into account. Among the poorer classes of the community the children are kept at home for several days during the week to assist their parents in their work. In many other cases the parents are unable to regularly provide the small weekly fee of 1*d*. charged by the school in respect of each pupil.

79. Education does not appear to be making progress in Sierra Leone, and one has not to look far for the causes. In addition to the reasons mentioned above, there exists a want of competent teachers. The salaries given to teachers are so

small that the services of qualified men cannot be obtained, the class of men who would make good teachers preferring employment in the Government Service and in the mercantile establishments. The results are consequently poor, and education among the poorer classes is going by easy stages from bad to worse.

80. The subjects taught in the Elementary Schools are reading, writing, and arithmetic. There are three optional subjects, geography, English history, and grammar, but as there were in all only 104 passes for the year, these subjects may be neglected, especially as only two or three schools presented pupils in English history. Geography was more general, but only the definitions appear to have been taken, and in grammar the children more often than not failed to show an intelligent grasp of the subject.

81. The percentage of proficient pupils to the number of pupils examined in the Standards (of which there are seven) is 52·7, and is ·1 less than that of the last examination. 2,836 pupils were presented for examination and 1,497 were passed as proficient.

82. The total number of pupils taught in the Standards was 3,445, the number examined being 82·3 per cent. of the number taught. The number of proficients, 1,497, is 43·4 per cent. of the number of pupils taught.

83. The following table will show that as the subjects become more difficult the results attained are proportionally more unsatisfactory:—

—	Examined.	Passes.	Percentages.
Standards 1 and 2 ...	1,814	1,123	61·8
„ 3 and 4 ...	796	321	40·3
„ 5, 6, and 7 ...	226	53	23·4

The serious state of elementary education in Sierra Leone has been a matter of deep concern to the Heads of the various denominations and to those of the general community who have the future welfare of the people at heart, and during the year a memorial was presented by them to the Governor praying for the taking over by the Government of the Elementary Schools in the Colony. Such a course would undoubtedly involve very heavy expenditure, especially in its incipient stage, and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Government.

It would be interesting to know the percentage of persons in the Colony who are able to read and write, as affording a further guide to the general state of education in Sierra Leone, but the information at present is not available.

84. The whole income from the schools amounts to £5,083 18*s.* 8*d.*, of which the Government contributes £1,516 15*s.* 1*d.*, or about three-tenths, in the form of grants-in-aid, while the school fees paid by the pupils amount to £1,015 7*s.* 10½*d.*, or about one-fifth: the various denominational bodies by means of direct contributions from themselves and indirect contributions from their members, provide the balance £2,551 15*s.* 8¼*d.*, equal to about a half of the whole.

85. The figures quoted above were obtained from the report of the Inspector of Schools, and refer to the condition of affairs at the beginning of 1907. The returns given in the Blue Book are incomplete owing to the fact that the managers of some of the schools did not give the information asked for from them.

86. Protectorate.—Apart from the School for sons of Chiefs at Bo, there are 23 schools in the Protectorate with 956 pupils on the roll. Of these 19, with a roll number of 791 pupils, belong to the United Brethren in Christ Missions

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

87. As in the case of the Primary Schools, the Secondary Schools belong principally to religious denominations, as shown in the following table:—

	Schools.	Pupils.
Church of England ...	2 (1 girls')	263
Wesleyans	2 „	306
Roman Catholic	1 ...	160
United Brethren in Christ ...	1 ...	138
Private	1 ...	98
		965

The results obtained at these schools are good, and it is from them that clerks for the Government Service and mercantile establishments here are obtained.

A large proportion of such appointments in the other Colonies are also filled by men educated at these schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

88. The only establishment in the Colony which offers to those who can afford it the opportunities of obtaining a higher education is Fourah Bay College, which is under the control of the Church Missionary Society. It is affiliated to Durham University, and students at the college can proceed to degrees in arts and theology.

Three scholarships of the value of £40 each per annum and others of a less amount are given.

At the close of 1907 there were 11 students at the college.

Up to 1907 Fourah Bay College was in receipt of a grant-in-aid of £500 from the Colonial Government for the training of teachers for the Primary Schools, but the grant was discontinued owing to the fact that the results were not commensurate with the expenditure.

Technical School.

89. This school is known as the Diocesan Technical School, but pupils from other denominations are allowed to attend.

The instruction given at the school is, as its name implies, of a purely technical character, and the school fills a very important position in the scheme of education of the Colony.

In the mornings, lectures are given in general building details, plane and solid geometry, and model drawing, as well as in theoretical mechanics, elementary trigonometry, and kindred subjects. In the afternoons practical instruction is given in the workshop.

The average number of the pupils in the school during 1907 was 26·5, showing a slight increase on previous years.

Students who have passed through a course of studies at this school are often taken on in the Railway and Public Works Department, and a few have obtained very good appointments in the Protectorate Roads Department.

Mohammedan Schools.

90. There are four Mohammedan Schools in Freetown for the education of the children of the Mohammedan section of the community. The number on the roll during 1907 was 596 as compared with 733 in 1906, and the average attendance was 454 as compared with 471 in 1906. It will be observed that though the number on the roll was less for 1907 than for 1906 the average attendance was much better.

It is stated that the decrease during 1907 was due partly to pupils having passed the school age and leaving to go to work, and partly to withdrawals by the parents of the children owing to their dissatisfaction with the teachers of one of the schools. The teachers have since been changed and the school in question is gradually regaining its former strength.

One result of these schools is that a few years ago there were only two Mohammedans able to fill the position of clerks: now there are about a dozen Mohammedan clerks in the Civil Service and mercantile establishments.

The schools have up to the present suffered owing to the fact that the teaching staff is composed wholly of Christians. To remove this objection a select number of the most intelligent and promising Mohammedan youths are being trained as teachers for their schools. It is hoped that when these youths will have completed their course of training and taken charge of the schools greater confidence will be established, and as a necessary consequence, the attendance considerably increased.

The number of Mohammedans in the Colony in 1901 was 9,504: most of these resided in Freetown, and there is every reason to believe that their number has very considerably increased since then.

School for the Sons and Nominees of Chiefs at Bo.

91. This school, which is conducted under the auspices of the Government, has for its object the training of those boys who will eventually be chiefs in their own countries, and continues to give promise of excellent results in the future.

It was opened in March, 1906, with 18 pupils, with a staff of the Principal (a European) and two Native Pupil Teachers. At the end of the year the pupils numbered 83 and the staff had been increased by two European Teachers, three Pupil Teachers, and one Interpreter (Konnoh).

The pupils, who numbered 85 at the close of 1907, are prinicipally Mendis and Timinis, with a few representatives of the other tribes of the Protectorate.

There was a natural disinclination on the part of those chiefs in the Protectorate who are Mohammedans, to send their sons to the school, as they feared that an effort would be made to pervert their sons from the Mohammedan faith, but this difficulty was met by appointing an Advisory Board composed of the leading Mohammedans in the Colony, who visit the school three times a year. The reports of the Board soon dispelled these fears, and have in a great measure overcome the prejudices of the chiefs.

The native teachers and pupils live in a village consisting of native houses, and the boys are encouraged to maintain as far as is possible the conditions of life obtaining in their own homes.

A garden is attached to each house, the front portion being devoted to flowers—an entirely new departure for the boys, as no native cultivates flowers—and the back portion to economic products.

No religious instruction is given in the school; the subjects taught are chemistry, plant life, agriculture, physiology, hygiene, geography, and arithmetic.

Reading is now also taught, but the boys are principally taught to develop their powers of observation and reasoning, and the results obtained have been extraordinary and very gratifying.

The school has aroused some interest in the other West African Colonies, and it is hoped and expected that lasting good will result from the excellent training given to the pupils.

The amount received in fees during 1907 amounted to £769, and the expenditure to £3,037. The fee for each pupil is £10 per annum.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

COLONIAL HOSPITAL.

92. The Colonial Hospital, Freetown, contains five wards. It is situated near the sea adjoining a very noisy, bi-weekly, open-air market, and the abbatoir. The accommodation is limited, and though the arrangements have been improved upon as much as was possible without actually rebuilding the hospital, it is felt that the best results cannot and will not be obtained until the institution is removed to another and better site, with a building more in keeping with the requirements of up-to-date medicine.

93. There were 48 patients remaining in hospital at the close of 1906. The admissions during 1907 numbered 1,051, bringing the total number of in-patients up to 1,099. Of these, 670 were cured, 225 were discharged relieved, 79 were discharged not relieved, and 94 died, leaving 31 patients under treatment at the close of 1907. In connection with this seemingly high mortality it would be well to point out that a very large proportion of deaths should not in justice be set against the hospital records, as there is an unfortunate tendency on the part of the public to bring cases in a moribund condition to the hospital.

94. The number of out-patients treated at the institution during the year was 18,008 as compared with 15,257 in 1906. These figures as they stand are rather deceptive: the apparent increase in number compared with 1906 is due to the fact that the cases attending in the morning for re-dressing and subsequent treatment have been recorded for the first time in the statistics for 1907.

There is a marked reduction in the number of Europeans (both official and non-official) treated, and also a reduction in the numbers of most of the other classes treated.

NURSING HOME.

95. This is a building in the town in the neighbourhood of the public offices, originally a private house. Its situation in the town and its proximity to the railway make the site very undesirable for an institution of this nature, where segregation from malaria and other insect-borne diseases as well as peace and quiet are essential qualifications.

96. At the close of 1906 there was one case remaining in the Nursing Home and there were 65 admissions during the year, making a total of 66 cases treated in 1907 compared with 62 in the previous year.

There were 4 deaths during the year: 1 from ptomaine poisoning, 1 from septic pneumonia, and 2 from blackwater fever.

97. The following shows the classes of the community from which the patients were derived:—

Government employees	27
Mercantile ,,	25
Clerical	2
Military	4
Shipping	6
Cable Company	2
	66

Of the Government employees 24 belonged to the Railway Department: the exposure to climatic and solar risks to which the employees of that Department are liable contributes largely towards the high rate of sickness among them.

Of the 66 patients treated 27 were cases of malarial fever.

98. The whole of the expenditure on the Home is defrayed in the first instance by the Government. A portion of this expenditure is subsequently recovered by means of voluntary contributions and from patients' fees. The expenditure during the year was £830, and the revenue derived from subscriptions and fees amounted to £359.

99. As an institution for the reception and treatment of sick Europeans it has proved a great blessing.

Arrangements have been made by which a bungalow at Hill Station is available for use as a sanatorium for official convalescents from the Nursing Home and the Protectorate.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

100. At the close of 1906 there were 124 patients under treatment in this institution; 23 fresh cases were admitted, making the total number of patients under treatment for the year under review 147.

101. Twenty deaths occurred during 1907; this was half of the number of deaths which took place in 1906. The decrease in the death-rate is attributed by the Principal Medical Officer to the rebuilding of the male wing of the asylum. An outbreak of beri-beri occurred in the old building, and 9 deaths resulted from the disease in 1906. In 1907 only 4 deaths were caused by beri-beri.

VARIOUS.

102. There are also a female incurable hospital, a lazaretto, and a small-pox hospital.

There were 20 cases of small-pox admitted into the hospital during the year. One death occurred. There is accommodation for about 100 patients.

103. In the Colonial Hospital, Sherbro, 212 patients were admitted during the year as compared with 240 in 1906.

There is also a small-pox hospital in Bonthe.

104. There is a hospital and dispensary at the headquarters of each of the five Protectorate districts, and there are also hospitals at Bo and Daru.

SAVINGS BANK.

105. The deposits during the year amounted to £49,479 6*s*. 10*d*. compared with £40,080 in 1906. The withdrawals amounted to £40,383 0*s*. 9½*d*. compared with £34,975 in 1906, and the total amount due to depositors, exclusive of interest, at the end of the year 1907 was £79,406 4*s*. 8*d*. as compared with £68,807 at the end of 1906.

106. The number of depositors at the close of the year was 4,893, showing a reduction of 808 compared with the figures for 1906. This reduction is due to the elimination in 1907 of 1,099 accounts representing unclaimed deposits amounting to £369, which, in accordance with the law, were closed, and the amounts transferred to General Revenue.

107. In order to overcome the inconvenience formerly experienced by absentee depositors in the withdrawal of money from their accounts in the Savings Bank, a system of cheques was instituted during the year, and 43 cheque books were issued to literate depositors. This system has met a long-felt want, as it affords depositors facilities for withdrawing money from the bank without having to go through the legal formalities formerly required, and which, in such cases where the depositor was carrying on his business in a place far removed from a civilized centre, it was almost impossible for him to conform to.

108. In addition to the Head Office in Freetown, there are branch banks at Sherbro and Waterloo in the Colony, and at each of the district headquarters in the Protectorate.

The sum of £10,996 was invested during the year, bringing the total investments up to £77,662.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

109. The strength of the force at the beginning of the year was the Commissioner, a European inspector, and 239 non-commissioned officers and men.

110. During the year the force was increased by 6 men, but no increase in expenditure resulted, as the extra cost of the 6 additional men was met by a re-adjustment of the various classes of constables and the institution of a class of probationers. This increase was made so as to enable the men in the force to be more regular in their attendances at the school.

111. The police are only employed in the Colony of Sierra Leone, the police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of 396 Court messengers, who are armed with double-barrelled guns and buck-shot ammunition.

112. The police are armed with the Snider rifle and buckshot ammunition, but in Freetown arms are only carried by the bank guard and by money and other escorts and for drill purposes.

113. Included in the strength of the force is a detective branch consisting of 1 sergeant and 4 constables. These four men are permanently employed as detectives, and they have the additional help of constables in plain clothes when necessary.

114. Up to the end of 1907 between 600 and 700 sets of finger prints had been classified and arranged and a considerable number of identifications have been made under the system. Up to the present the system has not been extended to the Protectorate except in so far that finger prints of all prisoners convicted in the Courts of the Protectorate and sentenced to over six months' imprisonment are taken in the Freetown Prison, where the prisoners are sent to serve their sentences.

115. The cost of the force for the year amounted to £8,598 11*s*. 11*d*.

116. The amount expended on the force of Court messengers who police the Protectorate amounted to £4,141 0*s*. 4*d*.

PRISONS.

117. The number of prisoners committed for safe custody in the prisons of the Colony during the year was 810 males and 22 females, against 818 males and 22 females committed during 1906. The daily average number was 230 as compared with 209 for the previous year.

118. The short-sentence male prisoners were employed in breaking stones, cleaning Government lands, and general labouring and sanitary work in connection with the Government Departments, whilst those sentenced to three years and upwards were employed inside the prison in tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, basket-making, and the making of concrete culverts for the Freetown drainage scheme. The female prisoners were employed in washing and sewing.

119. The conduct of the prisoners has on the whole been good, their being no offences committed beyond trivial breaches of prison discipline.

120. The health of the prisoners has also on the whole been good: there were no epidemics.

121. The amount realized from sales of articles made by the Prison Manufacturing Department was £946 18*s*. 6*d*., whilst £897 16*s*. 11*d*. was expended in the purchase of materials for

conversion by the prisoners into manufactured goods. The value of the stock on hand, December, 1907, was £1,151 8*s*. 11*d*.

122. During the year 17 prisoners earned their release on licence by good conduct and industry.

123. Divine service is regularly held each Sunday by a Minister of the Church of England. Mohammedan prisoners are allowed to hold their religious service every Friday afternoon.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

124. There was a marked increase in crime in the Colony and Protectorate in 1907 as compared with 1906, and this extends to the various forms of crime though in different degrees. The total number of offences reported during the year was 2,224 as compared with 2,162 in 1906. Of these, 560 were offences against the person, while the remainder were offences against property, other than larceny, and other offences.

125. The number of summary convictions in the Courts of the Colony and Protectorate was 1,501 as compared with 1,348 in 1906. Of these, 293 were for offences against the person, 555 for larceny, 459 for offences against Revenue Acts, &c., and the remainder for other minor offences.

126. The number of indictable offences tried in the Superior Courts of the Colony and Protectorate during the year amounted to 179, an increase of 4 over the figures for the previous year.

127. The following table shows the number of cases tried, the offences for which they were tried, and how the cases were disposed of:—

Nature of Indictment.	Number tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Fell through.	Prisoner found insane.
Murder	22	13	6	1	2
Manslaughter	4	4	—	—	—
Murder of wife, reputed wife, or concubine.	1	1	—	—	—
Rape	8	6	2	—	—
Other offences against the person, including slave dealing.	43	27	14	2	—
Malicious injuries to property ...	7	3	3	1	—
Robbery with violence	10	9	1	—	—
Larceny	60	47	6	7	—
Other offences against property ...	8	4	3	1	—
Miscellaneous offences	16	12	4	—	—
Total	179	126	39	12	2

Of the murder cases tried, 17 were tried by the Circuit Court: the majority of these were murders committed in connection with the Human Leopard Society.

128. The general increase in crime which has taken place during the year is probably due in a great measure to the influx into Freetown of large numbers of natives of the Protectorate in search of employment. A large number of these are unable to obtain regular employment, and in time drift into the ranks of the criminal class. Greater activity on the part of the police in bringing offenders to justice would also account for some of the increase in the number of offences reported.

129. Distress is practically unknown in the Colony and Protectorate, and therefore its influence on crime cannot be estimated.

130. It will be readily understood that in a country of which the climate is such that the needs of the inhabitants are few and easily satisfied, and in which the standard of living is not high, imprisonment has not that deterrent effect upon criminals that it has in other countries. To this must be added the unfortunate fact that the attitude of the lower class of people in general towards crime leaves a good deal to be desired.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

131. The estimated population of the Colony, exclusive of the Protectorate, at the close of 1907 was 76,929. The number of deaths registered was 1,192, giving a death-rate of 15·49 per thousand. The number of births registered was 935, a birth-rate of 12·15 per thousand. The above figures are not, however, reliable, as registration outside Freetown is not compulsory.

In Freetown, where registration is compulsory, the estimated population at the end of 1907 was 37,280: the total number of deaths was 816, and of births 583, giving a death-rate for Freetown of 21 per thousand and a birth-rate of 15 per thousand.

From the figures quoted the birth-rate is a fraction higher than that for 1906, and the death-rate, which showed a considerable fall in 1906, was still lower in 1907, and is the lowest on record for the last six years.

132. The population of the whole Colony in 1901, the date of the last census, consisted of 41,806 males and 34,799 females; of this number, 19,230 males and 15,233 females were

resident in Freetown. The disproportion in the number of males over females is probably due to the influx of labourers from the Protectorate in search of work.

The male population of the peninsula, as distinct from the rest of the Colony, in 1901 exceeded the female by nearly 6,000 persons. From birth up to the age of ten years the proportion of males to females was about the same, viz., 5,622 males to 5,541 females. The increase of males over females occurs between the ages of eleven years and fifty: to 27,897 males there are but 20,971 females. From fifty-one and upwards there is a preponderance of females, viz., 4,015 females to 3,329 males.

133. The estimated population of the Protectorate, based on the average number of persons occupying each house on which house tax is paid, is 1,171,000. This estimate is purely conjectural, as the number of persons living in a house varies according to the tribe, and, in the present incomplete state of house registration in the Protectorate, it is doubtful whether the number of houses on which tax is paid represents the number of houses actually in existence. No census has been taken in the Protectorate: births, deaths, and marriages are not registered, and there is no record of emigration and immigration.

134. The diseases responsible for the largest proportion of deaths are:—

Malarial fevers	202
Respiratory system	161
Digestive system	95
Nervous system	58
Circulatory system	42
Urinary system	24

It will be seen that malarial fevers take the first place, and this fact may cause some surprise to those who expect to find that the native, on the principle of natural selection, is immune from such complaints. As a matter of fact, up to a certain age, the native children are very subject to the evil effect of, and are the main storehouse of, the malaria germ, and it is only the adult native, taken as a class, who is comparatively immune from infection by the anopheles mosquito.

The number of deaths caused by diseases of the respiratory system is also high and is probably due to the fact that the native in adopting European clothing does so very often more for the sake of effect than for the sake of utility; the aborigine has no superfluity of clothes, and should the one garment he wears get wet he takes it off and dries it. But this is not done by natives wearing European clothes, and they are affected by chills in a similar manner to any person whose natural resistance is lowered by using unnecessary clothing.

135. Of the total number of deaths registered in Freetown (816) 452 were males and 364 females, and of the total number,

271 or 33 per cent., were under the age of five years. The total number of deaths of children under one year of age amounted to 210, showing a death-rate of 357 per thousand births, as compared with the infant mortality in England of 132 per thousand in 1906. This death-rate, though still very high as compared with that England, is nevertheless the lowest for the past seven years.

The reasons assigned for this high death-rate among children are: (1) malaria, (2) carelessness in the management of child birth, (3) insanitary surroundings, and (4) ignorance as to feeding, clothing, and cleanliness of children: but more information is necessary as to the actual age at which the deaths take place so that the principal causes may be located and combated. There is no doubt that different causes operate at different times of a child's life, and until the statistics are compiled with a view of specifying the prominent evils causing death, the causes can only be a matter of conjecture. In the absence of data, it is assumed that the last is the most prolific cause of death. It should also be the most easily remedied. In the meantime, this high death-rate is a matter of serious import to the natives of Sierra Leone, as, owing to the fact that the deaths are in excess of the births, the descendants of the original people who first settled in the Colony are gradually dying out. The more intelligent natives realize this, and also that unscientific midwifery plays a prominent part in the high death-rate of children. The Government some years ago opened a special midwifery ward at the Colonial Hospital to remedy this evil, but the effect it has had on the mass of the people has been inappreciable owing to the ignorant conservatism of the people, which has, so far, prevented them from enjoying to the full the benefits of the institution.

136. In the year under review there has been a decided decrease in the number of deaths due to diseases of the digestive system, and this is attributed to the better supply of drinking water which Freetown now enjoys. Public stand-pipes have been placed all over the town and the natives, who have always been accustomed to drink impure river water or well water which was polluted by infiltration from adjoining cess-pits, are now using the wholesome water obtained from the stand-pipes.

137. The total number of deaths which occurred among the European residents in the Colony during the year was 11: there were also 2 non-resident cases landed from vessels. Of the 11 deaths, 5 were military, 2 were officials, 2 were missionaries, and 2 were merchants.

The number of Europeans in Freetown in 1907 was estimated to be 550, but this is a very rough estimate, and any inferences based on those figures must necessarily be speculative. The health of the officials working in Freetown has improved in a very marked degree owing to residence at Hill

Station, where for the past three years a large number of the European officials on duty at headquarters have resided.

138. In spite of the fact that Bonthe is on a mud-bank and beset with every necessary condition for the propagation of the more serious forms of known tropical disease, the health of the 4 officials during the year was very good, none of them being on the sick list. There were 25 other Europeans resident in the district during the year. Among these there was 1 death, attributed to heat apoplexy. Owing to the frequent use of quinine and of the mosquito-net, the cases of fever were neither so frequent nor so serious as in former years.

139. Small-pox is an annually recurrent disease which usually makes its appearance in the dry season. Vaccination has been, and is being, carried out on an extensive scale in the Colony and Protectorate, though in a lesser degree in the Protectorate, and this should in time have the effect of either exterminating the disease or of considerably reducing its ravages.

During the year 20 cases of small-pox were reported: of these, 1 died.

140. Though only 2 cases of trypanosomiasis were admitted into the hospital during the year, it is nevertheless of much more frequent occurrence in the Colony and Protectorate than was the case a few years back. It is now known that the tsetse fly (*Glossina palpalis*) is the means by which trypanosomiasis (the last stage of which is sleeping sickness) is conveyed to the human system, and this fly is found in nearly all parts of the Colony and Protectorate.

Considerable research work is done in this direction by the military authorities, and a specially-trained member of the Royal Army Medical Corps regularly prosecutes scientific enquiries into the subject. There is a well fitted-up laboratory where most interesting experiments are conducted with a view to assisting in the discovery of a cure for the disease. The importance of the question not only to Sierra Leone, but to the whole of Central and West Africa, is so great as to call for no comment in this report. As regards Sierra Leone, however, it may be safely said that were a means of inoculation against infection by the tsetse fly discovered, the speedy introduction of animal transport which would follow would meet many of the difficulties now experienced in the development of the Protectorate.

141. The sanitation of Freetown is under the control of the City Council and under the immediate supervision of the Principal Medical Officer, who is, *ex officio*, Medical Officer of Health.

The scavenging of the town was, prior to 1907, carried out by the Corporation, but in 1907 a change was made and the work is now done by contract. The departure from the former system has not proved satisfactory.

142. The disposal of excreta is still one of the most important and at the same time one of the most difficult questions to deal with in the sanitation of Freetown. The cess-pit system still obtains, and as the nature of the soil allows the liquid contents of these pits to filter out of the pits they are never properly cleaned out. The result is that the air in Freetown is contaminated with the noxious gases emanating from the 3,000 cess-pits existing there, and the health of the whole community is consequently seriously affected.

The matter has been for some time engaging the serious attention of the Government, but up to the present none of the various suggestions to remedy the evil have taken definite shape.

The facilities presented by the natural slope of the ground towards the harbour would seem to overcome the more serious obstacles to a water-borne system of sewage disposal, but such a system would be expensive, and no proposal has yet been made to give effect to it.

143. Special sanitary measures required to deal with malaria were carried out as usual during the year. The actual expenditure incurred under this head by the City Council during the year amounted to £1,137 12*s.* 7*d.*

144. Hill Station, with its easy access to Freetown by railway, is undoubtedly the finest and most successful anti-malarial measure ever carried out by any West African Colony, and continues to maintain its good reputation for its almost complete freedom from fever, and from mosquitoes and other insect pests.

There is a special sanitary gang attached to Hill Station, part of whose work is to clear the bush in the immediate vicinity of the bungalows. This clearing of the bush is essential to good health, as the vegetation prevents the rapid evaporation of water from the hidden "pot holes" in the syenite rocks which abound at the station, and in which mosquitoes would breed freely.

Of the 11 cases of illness which occurred among the residents of Hill Station during the year 1907, only 3 can be attributed to climatic causes, the origin of which could not be specifically traced to Hill Station.

Of the 14 European ladies who resided at Hill Station at various times during the year none suffered from any serious illness. All seemed to enjoy excellent health and an immunity from tropical disease, which, by reason of their continuous residence, apart from likely infection, enhances considerably the utility of Hill Station as a European settlement.

145. Bonthe.—The sanitation of Bonthe is under the supervision of the Sherbro Municipal Board. The natural water

supply from shallow wells within a few feet of shallow cesspools is dangerous to a degree. Two public water-tanks for the storage of rain-water were erected and have been found very useful.

146. Protectorate.—A great impetus has been given to the sanitation of towns in the Protectorate by the scheme adopted by the Government of giving each chief who had the cleanest town in his chiefdom a very handsome presentation sword (or its money equivalent—£5). The possession of these swords has given the greatest pleasure, and the desire of other chiefs to earn the reward has already incited them to increase their efforts to improve the sanitary condition of their towns.

CLIMATE.

147. The climate of Sierra Leone is unhealthy, and, generally speaking, may be said to be unsuitable for Europeans. Owing to the more favourable conditions under which life is now possible, the effects of the climate are not so great as was formerly the case. The knowledge that malarial fever is conveyed by means of the anopheles mosquito and the adoption of precautions against the bites of those insects, coupled with a more careful mode of living on the part of the European community have done much to minimise the baneful effects of the climate. The conditions as to leave under which European officials serve also materially affect the question of climate as far as that class of resident officials is concerned.

There are only two seasons, the wet and the dry: the former commencing in May and lasting until October.

148. The rainfall in Freetown during 1907 amounted to 153·13, which is 18·13 inches less than the average for the last five years. The heaviest rainfal for any one day occurred on the 28th May and registered 9·64 inches.

Rain fell on 160 days during the year, the average for the previous five years being 162·2. Rain fell in ten months out of the year as compared with eleven in the previous five years (except 1905, 10 months), but very little rain falls in January, February, March, April, and December.

The wettest months are July and August, the averages for those months being 42·01 and 40·59 for the last five years.

As might be expected, the rainfall diminishes the further the point of reference is from the coast, but even in the north of the Protectorate the average annual rainfall is about 100 inches.

There were 123 thunderstorms during 1907, the average for the five years previous being 127·6. They usually occur at the beginning and end of the rains, and are often accompanied by a very strong wind. They do not last long and seldom do much damage.

The following table shows the average number of thunderstorms which have occurred during the last five years in the months in which they usually occur:—

May	19·8
June	19·2
July	10·4
August	3·8
September	12·6
October	20·4
November	16·2

TEMPERATURE.

149. The average daily temperature is less in the middle of the rains than at any other time of the year, though the daily range of temperature is least at that time, varying from 5 to 10 degrees, and coinciding with the maximum humidity of the air. In July and August (the months in which most rain falls) the average minimum temperature for the last five years was 72·06 and 71·74 degrees, respectively, while the average maximum temperature for those months during the same period was 83·96 and 83·14, respectively.

The highest temperatures are experienced in March and April, the average minimum during those months for the last five years being 75·1 and 75·08 degrees, and the average maximum 91·44 and 90·72, respectively.

The coldest mornings are experienced in December and January, when the harmattan blows, the temperature going down as low as 66. The daily range of temperature at this period also increases, the maximum (about 28 degrees) being reached in January.

The minimum humidity is reached at the end of March or the beginning of April, a good deal of the moisture of the air being absorbed by the dry harmattan wind.

150. The variations in barometrical pressure are so slight in Sierra Leone as only to be of interest to persons especially interested in the subject. The mean monthly pressure varied in 1907 between 29·66 and 29·81.

The prevailing wind during the dry season (November to the end of March) is from the north-east, while during the rainy season it is from the south-west.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

151. The total revenue collected at the Post Office and Savings Bank Department for the year amounted to £10,705 14*s.* 7*d.*, of which £1,939 5*s.* 8*d.* was for Customs duty on parcel mails. It also includes a sum of £2,398 9*s.* 0*d.*, being interest received on investments of savings bank monies.

Taking the same factors into consideration for 1906 as for 1907, the increase for the year under review amounts to £899 13*s.* 8*d.*

The expenditure, including a sum of £1,503 6*s.* 6*d.*, interest due to savings bank depositors, amounted to £9,792 3*s.* 6*d.* as compared with £9,042 14*s.* 10*d.* in 1906.

152. The total number of postal articles and parcels handled during the year amounted to 1,256,859, made up as follows:—

Letters	810,834
Postcards	154,437
Newspapers and Books	260,677
Total	1,225,948
Parcels	30,911
	1,256,859

The total number of postal articles and parcels handled in 1906 was 1,124,628, showing an increase in 1907 of 132,231.

The increase is due principally to the purely postal articles (that is exclusive of parcels), the increase of those articles during 1907 being 127,492 over the figures for 1906.

Of the 1,225,948 postal articles handled no less than 133,787, or 11,994 more than in 1906, passed through the Registration Branch.

153. The total amount of cash which passed directly through the Department in 1907 amounted to £225,612 9*s.* 2*d.* as compared with £188,508 14*s.* 6*d.* in 1906.

The above figures not only show that the work of the postal department has increased very considerably during the year under review, but they are also indicative of the increased business transactions of the Colony generally.

154. Money Orders numbering 13,471, of the value of £116,154 14*s.* 0*d.*, were paid during the year. Of these, 4,955, of the value of £32,984 17*s.* 5*d.*, were issued within the Colony and 2,044, of the value of £10,200 6*s.* 1*d.*, were received from beyond the limits of the Colony. Of the 2,044 orders received from abroad, 309, representing a value of £2,152 17*s.* 3*d.*, came from the United Kingdom.

There were 4,181 Orders, valued at £27,617 2*s.* 6*d.*, sent to the United Kingdom, and 667, valued at £4,459 1*s.* 9*d.*, sent to the other countries and to the West African Colonies.

155. There were 30,686 Postal Orders issued and paid during the year, of the value of £18,540 18*s.* 7*d.*, as against 21,706, of the value of £11,255 2*s.* 7*d.*, in 1906.

Orders numbering 20,902, of the value of £12,345 0*s.* 3*d.*, were sold as compared with 15,973, of the value of £8,088 16*s.* 6*d.*, in 1906, and 9,786 Orders, of the value of £6,195 18*s.* 4*d.*, were paid as compared with 5,733, of the value of £3,166 6*s.* 1*d.*, in 1906.

That the facilities afforded by the Post Office for the circulation of money are being taken advantage of by the people of Sierra Leone is evident from the above figures. The cause of the expansion of business in the postal as well as in every other department in the Colony can be directly traced to the development of the resources of the Protectorate by the railway and the roads which have been constructed as feeders thereto.

156. Telegraphic communication with Europe and other parts of the world is maintained by means of the African Direct Telegraph Company's lines.

The rate per word between Freetown and the United Kingdom is 3*s.* 6*d.*

The whole of the inland telegraph service is worked by the Railway Department. There are two lines: one extending the whole length of the railway, a distance of 226 miles, and another connecting Freetown with Bon'the, in the Sherbro district.

The latter line was completed in 1907. The total amount received in respect of telegrams during 1907 amounted to £678 as compared with £590 in 1906. The rate for telegrams is sixpence for 12 words and a halfpenny for each additional word.

TELEPHONES.

157. The only telephone line at present constructed belongs to the War Department, and was erected for military purposes. It is not available for public use. With the consent of the War Department connections with this line have been made between the Barracks at Tower Hill and the principal Government Offices and Government House.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

158. The Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force is a purely military force under the administration of, and paid for by, the Colonial Government.

The cost of the battalion amounted in 1907 to £22,889 16*s*. 10*d*.

The amount expended from Imperial Funds for the maintenance of Imperial troops quartered in the command in 1907 was £133,601 16*s*. 5*d*. as compared with £139,606 in 1906.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

STATE OF RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

159. The railway in Sierra Leone is a Government undertaking, and consists of the main line, which extends from the terminus in Freetown to Baiima, near to the Liberian frontier, a distance of 220 miles. The number of stations on the main line is 27.

There is in addition to this line one extending from the Freetown terminus to Hill Station (a distance of 6 miles) and called the Mountain Railway Section. The construction of this section formed part of the scheme for the establishment of residences at Hill Station for Government officials. The number of stations, including the Freetown terminus and flag stations, on the Mountain Railway Section is 9.

160. The gauge of the railway is 2 ft. 6 ins.

The quantity of rolling stock employed on the railway is as follows:—

Locomotive Engines	25
Coaching vehicles	59
Goods vehicles	140

The number of passengers carried on the railway during 1907 amounted to 284,856, an increase of 36,982 over the figures for the previous year. The amount received for passenger traffic was £18,655 as compared with £18,979 in 1906, a decrease of £324. The decrease is due to the fact that there is no longer the same necessity for the small Protectorate traders to travel to Freetown as there was before the large firms established branches on the upper section of the railway. The number of tickets taken for long journeys is therefore reduced, and this accounts for the decrease in the actual amount received irrespective of the fact that the number of tickets sold is greater.

The increase in the total number of tickets sold is attributed to the general development of the country and the growing popularity of the railway as a means of transport.

161. The amount received for the carriage of goods amounted in 1907 to £51,992 against £40,406 in 1906.

The amount of goods carried in 1907 was 29,868 tons, representing 4,098,265 ton miles as compared with 18,623 tons, representing 3,195,825 ton miles, in 1906. Ton mileage represents the tonnage multiplied by the mileage over which the tonnage is hauled.

The increase in 1907 was due to the high price paid for palm kernels and oil. This point is dealt with under the heading "Trade."

162. The original cost of construction of the railway, including subsidiary expenditure, was £1,014,731. The gross receipts for the year amounted to £74,266 as compared with £62,158 in 1906, and the net earnings amounted to £6,632.

163. The working expenses of the line compared with the previous year are as follows:—

	1907.			1906.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cost per open mile ...	298	5	10	245	13	7
,, Train mile ...	0	5	6·4	0	4	8·7
,, Vehicle mile ...	0	0	10·77	0	0	9·9

The increase in the working expenses of the year under review is due to the following causes:—

Increase of staff in the Railway Department.

The cost of the maintenance has been heavier owing to the increased haulage to and from the upper sections of the line.

The damage caused by the storm in September, 1907, to the bridges and permanent way.

Extensive repairs to the locomotives and rolling stock.

Heavier traffic expenses consequent on the increase of traffic hauled.

The quantity of coal consumed by the locomotives during the year was 2,510 tons, costing £4,079: the consumption per engine mile was 20·9 tons, and the cost per engine mile was 3·6*d.*

It may be stated that the mountain section is run at a loss—the loss during 1907 on that section being £1,708, but, as stated before, that part of the railway was not opened primarily as a commercial enterprise.

STATE OF ROADS.

164. There are in the Colony 156 miles of roads connecting Freetown with the various towns and villages in the peninsula.

165. In the Protectorate many of the roads which were under construction were completed during the year and handed over to the Railway Department, with the result that outlying districts have been brought into close touch with the railway. All of these new roads have been built as feeders to the railway and tap the principal palm-producing areas in that portion of the Protectorate through which it passes.

The most important of these roads is Bo to Mandu, 19 miles; Blama to Boagibu, 24 miles; Hangha to Panguma, 20 miles; Segbwema to Bandajuma, 26 miles (first 9 miles being first-class road); Pendembu to Kanre Lahun, 16 miles; Baiima (rail head) to Malema, 40 miles. There are also two tram lines, namely, from Baiima to Pendembu, 7 miles, and Boia towards Makump, 21 miles. The roads above mentioned are divided into first, third, and fifth -class roads.

A first-class road is cleared and grubbed for a width of 33 feet, having a properly-formed roadway 12 feet wide, ballasted where necessary, and a maximum grade of 1 in 12. Fifty-two miles of this class of road had been constructed up to the end of 1907.

A third-class road is practically the same as a first-class road as regards earthworks, with a maximum grade of 1 in 10. Length constructed, 42 miles.

A fifth-class road is a carefully located bush path cleared and grubbed to a width of 16 feet, with native-made bridges. Length constructed, 164 miles.

The construction of these roads has necessitated the building of a large number of bridges. Permanent bridges with concrete abutments and wing walls, with a superstructure 11 feet wide composed of steel girders and 6-inch timber planking, capable of bearing a central load of 10 tons, have been built where required on all the first-class roads.

A number of other bridges built of bush timber and of sufficient width to admit of a hammock passing over them, have also been constructed on the other roads.

Traction-engine transport is employed on the Bo-Mandu and the Blama-Boagibu roads; barrel-roller transport is worked on the Hangha-Tikonko road.

PUBLIC WORKS.

166. A new reservoir at Hill Station was constructed at the cost of £2,161 0*s*. 11*d*.

The Public Works Department was transferred from its position in Freetown to the site of the old Botanical Gardens, and the cost during 1907 of constructing offices, stores, workshops, &c., amounted to £3,094.

A very fine recreation ground was made just outside the town, containing a cycle track, cricket pitch, croquet lawn, and football ground: the total cost amounted to £1,237.

The amount expended during the year in the construction of barracks and quarters for the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force, at Moa River, was £8,459.

£7,524 was expended during the year in the construction of three new Customs sheds.

Two steel jetties are in course of construction at the Government Wharf, one of them being practically completed and the second just commenced.

These jetties are being erected to facilitate the loading and unloading of the lighters which ply between the steamers and the shore, and generally to expedite the receiving and shipping of cargo.

The jetties, which are situated just opposite the Customs sheds, will be 100 feet long, 31 feet broad, and will have a depth at their seaward ends of nearly 40 feet at low-water spring tides. Each jetty will be fitted with a 4-ton steam crane for loading and discharging lighters.

The amount expended in 1907 was £10,608. It is probable that both jetties will be in use early in 1909.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

167. It is somewhat difficult accurately to prognosticate the immediate future prospects of Sierra Leone trade, as so much of that trade is dependent upon one article of production, viz., palm kernels. The fostering of other agricultural products for exportation is highly desirable in order to place the Colony in a position of greater economic safety than can possibly be the case when 66 per cent. of its exports is comprised of palm kernels.

During the greater part of 1907, palm kernels attained a higher price in the markets of Europe than has ever been previously reached, and chiefly owing to the severe competition between the mercantile firms in Sierra Leone; the inhabitants of the Protectorate participated to the full in the rise of prices, and consequently became possessed of more wealth than they had previously been accustomed to. A considerable portion of this wealth was disbursed in the purchase of additional supplies of spirits, tobacco, cotton goods, &c., and the statistics for 1907 consequently show considerable increases in the value of exports and imports. When prices began to fall in October, 1907, the natives had a sufficient reserve of capital to render them for a time independent, and, therefore, instead of selling their kernels on a falling market they stored them in the hope that prices would again rise. As a result, for several months during the first half of 1908, branch establishments of the European firms in the Protectorate obtained very small supplies of produce, and the native paid for his purchases in their stores with cash, and in lieu of exports of produce, statistics show largely increased exports of specie for the first half of the current year.

The competition amongst the European firms during 1907 became more or less of a frenzied nature towards the latter end, and although the turnover of produce and merchandise formed a record, there is reason to believe that some of the firms barely defrayed expenses. By the high prices given, the natives with aboriginal ignorance of the vagaries of European markets, looked for a continuance of the high prices, and when prices fell over 50 per cent., they retained their produce, and trade was temporarily reduced to a low ebb.

Protectorate farmers are now beginning to realize, however, that the change in price is of a more permanent nature than they imagined, and the already impoverished trade of 1908 is gradually re-adjusting itself, although the volume of trade in 1908 will probably be less than in 1907, and the value of such trade considerably less.

Fortunately, money is now plentiful in Europe, and the continuance of a low bank rate ought to give a fillip to trade, which is in many instances largely conducted upon credit.

Provided no unforeseen circumstances occur to temporarily absorb large amounts of capital, such as war, financial panics, or catastrophes similar to the earthquake at San Francisco, cheap supplies of money may be anticipated for some time to come, especially after such a period of commercial activity as prevailed in 1907, and as a consequence markets for West African produce ought to assume a healthier tone, but a return to the high prices ruling last year need scarcely be anticipated.

The increased wealth enjoyed by the natives in 1907 may have turned their thoughts to the development of trade beyond the limits of their former primitive requirements by creating within them a desire for improved surroundings and increased indulgence in luxuries, and the present set-back in trade may be a blessing in disguise, as it may teach the mercantile community a lesson that they may not readily forget, so that both parties may indirectly be benefited.

So long as a fair price and a satisfactory demand for palm kernels exist there is good reason to believe that the trade of this Colony will continue to expand if conducted with reasonable care and intelligence, as roads, railways, and tram lines are opening up the interior and are releasing a certain number of men who have hitherto been employed as carriers and whose services will in the future be available for more productive forms of labour.

The immediate prospects of trade in the Colony are not particularly bright, but with a return to a natural and normal condition of affairs, and the exercise of ordinary commercial caution and foresight, an optimistic view of prospective trade may reasonably be entertained.

LABOUR.

168. Owing to the climate, which is unsuitable for Europeans, the country is not adapted for permanent settlement by them.

This subject is more fully dealt with under the heading "Climate."

There are no openings for white labour.

169. The average rate of wages is as follows:—

Artisans from 2*s*. to 5*s*. a day.
Domestic servants from 20*s*. to 40*s*. a month.
Ordinary labourers from 9*d*. to 1*s*. a day.

Amongst the natives the cost of living is very cheap. Their diet consists chiefly of rice and other locally-grown vegetables, which are plentiful and cheap, and of fish, which abound in the sea along the coast and in the lower reaches of the rivers.

The actual cost of living probably does not amount among the labouring class to more than 4*d*. per diem.

Amongst the educated classes of natives, who live more in the European style, the cost of living is, of course, greater, and probably amounts to from 2*s*. to 3*s*. a day.

The average cost of living amongst Europeans other than those who live in messes is about £15 to £20 a month.

OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL.

170. The name of West Africa does not recall pleasant memories for many investors, and even now many trading projects which it fosters are looked upon with suspicion at their birth. Failures in the past were largely due, it is to be feared, to the selection by those at headquarters of persons but badly fitted in many cases for their responsibilities, so that between defective management and a bad climate, many projects were strangled before they reached the adolescent stage of their existence. A healthier tone now exists with regard to West African affairs, and the future gives promise of a much larger percentage of commercial successes than the past has been credited with.

Sierra Leone is primarily an agricultural country, and, so far as present knowledge goes, is likely to remain so. It is well known that iron exists in the interior, and it is believed that gold is also present, but no vein of either metal of sufficient richness has been discovered to make the labour involved in placing them upon the European markets a profitable undertaking.

The import and export trade of the Colony is almost entirely in the hands of eight or nine large European firms, having their principal places of business in Freetown and branches at

Sherbro island and various parts of the Protectorate. They import all classes of general merchandise and do a large trade with the country natives in spirits, unmanufactured tobacco, and cotton goods, sending to Europe in payment of such imports palm kernels, palm oil, rubber, ginger, &c. The aggregate trade of the Colony in 1907 amounted to £1,819,281. Competition is keen, especially on the coast, and there is little inducement for investments of fresh capital in this direction, although in the more remote parts of the Protectorate there are still opportunities for men of good business capacity, possessing initiative and a knowledge of West African trade. The railway extends for 220 miles into the Protectorate, which possesses an approximate population of 1,171,000. There are several very good waterways for the conveyance of produce to the coast, from whence it is conveyed to Europe almost exclusively by two lines of steamers—the Elder-Dempster line of Liverpool and the Woermann line of Hamburg. They possess a working agreement, and therefore the shipping trade is in the hands of a monopoly. West African trade has advanced rapidly during the past decade, and now that railways are being laid down in almost every European sphere of influence within reasonable distance of the coast, the intercolonial and international trade between different places on the coast is increasing, and an opening exists for a service of coastal steamers of about three or four hundred tons register. Freetown would be an excellent place to make the headquarters of such a trade, as there is an excellent harbour with modern facilities for the working of cargo, and the water supply is the purest and best on the coast.

Around the coast of Sierra Leone the sea abounds with various varieties of fish of good quality, and a fish-curing establishment possessing a few steam trawlers ought to yield a good return to investors, as the natives subsist largely upon fish, and do a small trade by drying and salting fish for sale to the interior tribes and also for exportation to other parts of the coast. Locally-cured fish to please the native palate would command a large sale all along the coast, and also amongst innumerable tribes in proximity to the railway now running far into the interior.

The rice grown in Sierra Leone is of fine quality, and superior in nutritive properties to Indian rice. No real attempts have hitherto been made to grow rice in sufficiently large quantities for European markets, but enterprise and the introduction of rice-cleaning machinery would form the nucleus of an industry that might be made an expanding and profitable one, as Sierra Leone is geographically situated in a much more favourable position than India and Burma for placing its products on the markets of Europe.

Cattle are very scarce in the Protectorate, which has an area of about 28,110 square miles, and the breed is poor.

Enterprising cattle-breeders might find the propagation of a superior breed a remunerative occupation.

Manual labour is somewhat scarce in the Protectorate, due to the ravages of war and other causes, but now that the natives are being tutored in more peaceful and civilised modes of living and by the introduction of machinery and modern means of transport, this difficulty would be removed in course of time. Labour in the Protectorate can be obtained in many parts at from 8*d*. to 9*d*. per day, so that commercial exploits need not fail on account of the expense of labour.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon capitalists and companies commencing new ventures in a country like this, that it is absolutely necessary to send out men who thoroughly know their business, as probably more promising schemes have been wrecked through incapacity than by any other cause.

Industries in West Africa must be established upon a scientific basis, and by the application of theory to practice the maximum of efficiency will be secured, greater economy in production will be obtained and, as a sequence, greater ability to sell in the open market in competition with others. These are some of the most cogent reasons why specialists should be selected for the important work of creating any new industries in West Africa, where the climate and other local conditions conduce to render the task of bringing projects to a successful culmination more arduous than in most other parts of the world.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE,

171. Owing to the absence of a moneyed class in Sierra Leone, there are not those fine distinctions in the social condition of the people which obtain in older and more civilized countries.

The people are roughly divided into two classes, a middle class and the labouring class.

The middle class is composed of professional men, shopkeepers, clerks, and artisans.

Only one or two of the natives can be described as wealthy. On the other hand, poverty as known in Europe is unknown here, and the middle class are as a whole well-to-do. Their incomes are sufficiently high to enable them to defray the actual cost of living and to set aside considerable savings.

The wants of the labouring class are few and easily satisfied. In a country where there are no extremes of climate very little clothing is required: and the cost of food is so small as to be easily obtained out of the daily wages earned. This, no doubt, tends to indolence on the part of this class of the people, as the amount earned by them for three days' work is quite sufficient to keep them for a week.

The number of unemployed is regulated more by the disinclination on the part of the labourers to obtain work than from any lack of work itself.

It will be inferred from the foregoing that the number of those who are actually destitute is limited. To meet the needs of this section of the community, a sum of £450 is provided by the Government. The relief given to paupers in this way amounts to five shillings a head per quarter.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

172. The progress made by the Colony during the last few years has been satisfactorily maintained. The statistics show that the revenue and the value of imports and exports are the highest on record, and although they were unduly increased by the abnormal prices paid for local produce during the earlier part of the year, there is reason to believe that even without this the figures would have exceeded those for the previous year.

The establishment by the principal mercantile houses of branch businesses in the Protectorate, which followed the construction of the railway and of the roads in connection with it, by affording the people a means of readily and profitably disposing of their produce has contributed largely to the rapid development of the country; and as this development continues it is to be expected that there will be a corresponding improvement in the Colony's financial condition. The progress of a country is, however, so intimately connected with the standard of education attained by its people that until the low standard which now obtains here is improved it cannot be expected that Sierra Leone will make that progress which the development of its resources is capable of securing.

E. EVELYN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
28th August, 1908.

APPENDIX.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1907 FOR THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of the Colony on the following subjects on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed, when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which it is probable that there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

Rubber.

Five samples of rubber collected in the Gola Forest were examined. Four of them were of very promising quality, and, if carefully collected and prepared, the rubber would command satisfactory prices in the English market. The fifth specimen contained a large amount of resin, and would consequently be of low value. No information is available as to the identity of the plants from which these rubbers were obtained, but botanical specimens have been asked for.

Further specimens of Landolphia and Funtumia rubbers were also submitted. A comparative examination of Landolphia rubber prepared (1) in sheets by an improved method and (2) in balls by the ordinary native process showed that the rubber prepared in the former way realises the best price.

Two samples of *Funtumia elastica* rubber in biscuits were examined and proved to be of good quality. They contained 90·5 and 91·2 per cent. of caoutchouc respectively.

Gara Plant.

The Gara plant, which is used in West Africa as the source of a blue dyestuff, was examined for the Imperial Institute by Mr. A. G. Perkin, F.R.S., of Leeds University, who found that it contains indigotin identical with that present in the various species of Indigofera which are used as sources of indigo in India, Java, and elsewhere.

Ginger.

The questions connected with the development of the ginger industry in Sierra Leone, which had been dealt with in 1906, received further attention during 1907. A memorandum was prepared for the Government of the Colony giving information regarding improved methods of cultivation and preparation, and subsequently small consignments of ginger were shipped to this country, representing (1) ginger prepared by the improved method and (2) ginger prepared by the native method, but thoroughly dried. These consignments were sold in London in consultation with the Imperial Institute. The better-prepared ginger realised from 64*s.* to 66*s.* per cwt. as against 32*s.* 6*d.* paid for the consignments prepared in the usual way, thus clearly indicating the advantage of devoting more attention to the preparation of ginger for the market.

Cotton.

Two samples of unginned "Quondi" cotton were found to be of good quality and similar to Indian cotton. They were valued at 5⅝*d.* and 5¾*d.* per lb., with "good" Broach at 5⅜*d.* per lb.

Fibres.

A consignment of about 1½ tons of "Kowe" fibre (*Hibiscus quinquelobus*) was received for trial sale. The product was too coarse and harsh to be employed as a jute substitute, but realised £17 to £18 in the London market for use in rope manufacture.

A sample of "Napunti" fibre (*Honckenya ficifolia*) was also forwarded. It consisted of coarse brown bast ribbons, which, it was stated, represented the only form in which the natives could prepare the fibre. "Napunti" fibre of this character would only be suitable for use as a paper material, and its collection and exportation for this purpose would probably be unremunerative. A specimen of Napunti bark was examined with the object of ascertaining its value for paper-making. It is doubtful, however, whether the product could be successfully utilised for the purpose.

A specimen of *Sansevieria guineensis* fibre was found to be well-cleaned, of good colour, and worth £31 per ton.

Essential Oil.

A consignment of the leaves of *Ocimum viride* was forwarded in order that the essential oil which they yield might be examined. This oil would be of commercial value on account of the large proportion (32 per cent.) of thymol which it contains. It is probable that the residue left after removing the thymol could also be used for perfuming soaps.

Vegetable Oil.

The oil from the seeds of *Lophira alata* has been examined, and has been valued provisionally at £20 per ton for soap-making purposes. A trial consignment of the seeds has been asked for.

Tanning Material.

A sample of red mangrove bark proved to be too poor in tannin to be exported, though possibly it could be used locally for tanning or for the preparation of a tanning extract.

Minerals.

The minerals received for examination were principally sands supposed to contain rare earths, and in one or two of the specimens traces of monazite were found. Reports were also furnished on a sample of iron ore of fair quality, and on several sands consisting mainly of ilmenite and magnetic iron ore.

A number of exhibits which have been received from Sierra Leone during the year have been added to the West African Court in the Public Galleries, and descriptive labels provided for them. A new show case has been provided. A catalogue of the Sierra Leone exhibits has been prepared for publication in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute."

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, the Superintendent of Agriculture for West Africa, has been in constant communication with the Imperial Institute on all matters connected with agricultural operations and development, and has transmitted numerous specimens of economic products for examination at the Imperial Institute.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast... ...	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta...	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements...	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–08.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 611.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 588.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1909.

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No. 611.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 588.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
15th July, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information the Report on the Sierra Leone Blue Book for 1908.

2. The year 1908 closed with a deficit of £20,871, and although the Report fully explains that the financial position of the Colony is thoroughly sound, there are several reasons which suggest that supplementary information on the subject may have some interest. The word "deficit" is, admittedly, a disquieting term; in the minds of the many who have no professional knowledge of finance it induces an uncomfortable suggestion of bankruptcy, and to experts it is a signal indicating an abnormal condition which demands critical scrutiny. There must also be many holders of Sierra Leone Inscribed Stock who, in addition to a natural desire for information as to the deficit, will welcome information concerning the effect which the expenditure authorized by the Public Loan Ordinance of 1903 has had upon the social and economic welfare of the Colony. The Ordinance empowered the Colonial Government to raise a loan of £1,250,000 for the following purposes:—

(i.) Railway from the port of Freetown into the Protectorate, £1,093,500.
(ii.) Mountain Railway and Hill Station scheme, £86,000.
(iii.) Freetown Wharf, £39,000, and
(iv.) Freetown Waterworks, £31,500.

3. Of the works thus authorised the most important was the railway, and it is satisfactory that this undertaking may now be regarded as profitable; it is true that in 1908 the revenue, £71,000, was less than the gross expenditure, but this is due to £12,000 having been spent on additional rolling stock purchased to meet increased traffic, and if this "capital expenditure" be excluded a profit of £4,000 would be shown, to which should be added the large increase in the amount received from Customs Duties attributable solely to the trade created by the railway.

The construction of the latter began twelve years ago, and was completed in 1905; the line is 220 miles in length and starting from the port of Freetown ends at Baiima, a small town situated about 20 miles from the Liberian frontier. The undertaking showed no signs of becoming profitable until 1904, when Blama, 168 miles from Freetown, was reached, and the railway, for the first time, entered a traffic-yielding palm country. The remarkable expansion of trade which began from the moment that this district was developed led to a decision which, being carried out, may, in a sense, be said to have resulted in the deficit of 1908. It was known that palms existed in exceptional abundance in the Yonni country, a Temne district 80 miles distant from Freetown, and situated about 20 miles to the north of the railway, and it was decided to connect the latter with this second palm country by means of a tramway; the construction of this branch line, identical as to gauge and grade with the railway, was begun in 1906, and the cost of its completion in 1908, amounting to £20,471, may, as stated, be said to account for the deficit; it is well, however, to remember that, as already stated, the expenditure of the Colony during the year provided for the purchase of additional rolling stock for the railway, and also that, owing to a depression in trade, common to other Colonies on the West Coast, the general revenue of Sierra Leone only amounted to £331,000 in 1908, as compared with £359,000 in the previous year. The Colony was not in any way embarrassed in finding the money needed to make good the deficit, as all that had to be done was to take the amount from its surplus funds, which latter, it may be mentioned, after the deduction, amounted to £104,795, as compared with £99,943 at the end of 1904, during which year the Sierra Leone Loan was subscribed.

4. In the Report which is transmitted with this despatch and in the Reports on the Blue Books for 1905, 1906, and 1907 allusion is made to the construction of another tramway, seven miles in length, at Baiima, the terminus of the main line, and to the expenditure incurred in connecting palm-growing districts situated between Bo, Blama, and the terminus at Baiima, with the railway by means of roads; the cost of these works, including the Yonni tramway, amounted to £105,000, of which £41,000 was appropriated from the unexpended balance of the loan, and the remainder obtained from general revenue; it would be quite correct, therefore, to point out that I am in error in stating, as I have done, that the Yonni tramway was the sole cause of the deficit. I prefer, however, to treat the Yonni line as being the sole cause, because, while the roads leading to the railway and the short tramway at its terminus were unavoidable, because obviously necessary for the development of the palm district between Blama and the terminus of the railway, the Yonni tramway was a separate undertaking designed to exploit an entirely new district situated beyond the zone in which the railway would naturally exercise its influence in trade development; it is moreover the fact that, but for the expenditure upon this tramway there would have been no deficit in 1908, and that the surplus funds of the Colony would now be £54,000 more than when the loan was subscribed instead of only being £4,000 more.

Although enough has been said to make it clear that the deficit of 1908 was not due to weakness in the financial power of the Colony but was brought about by expenditure designed to be reproductive and similar to that of a manufacturer who spends the greater part of two or three years' profits in extending a specially lucrative branch of his factory, it may be of interest if attention is called to some of the facts which show that the enterprise was well considered and that the new branch line will probably soon become a valuable asset.

As already stated the chief reason for deciding to construct the Yonni tramway was because the remarkable expansion in trade resulting from the railway having tapped a profitable palm country in 1904, augured that good results might be confidently expected from bringing the railway into touch with another district equally rich in palm produce. I can think of no more accurate way by which to show the extent to which trade expanded after 1904 than to compare the average value of exports during the three preceding years with that of the subsequent years: during 1901-3 inclusive, the average annual value of palm kernels exported was £186,000, and during 1905-8 inclusive, the value rose to £344,000: during the first period the annual average value of all the exports from the Colony, including specie, was only £375,000, as compared with £711,000 after 1904. The statistical method of showing the progress of trade, although the most accurate, is not particularly striking, and moreover it is apt to lack persuasive force on account of the untrue but popular generalization that figures can be made to prove anything; it so happens, however, that, previous to 1904, an author writing of the West Coast colonies in general and dealing with the subject in that authoritative manner most easily attained by those who are not hampered by local knowledge, employed as a summary of his conclusions respecting this Colony the picturesque phrase "Sierra Leone, the moribund," and I think that no more striking proof can be given of the recent growth in the financial strength of the Colony than the fact that the phrase quoted was not regarded as extravagant at the date when it was employed, and that, since that date, "Sierra Leone, the moribund," has been able out of her increased general revenue to connect the railway system with a second palm district as rich as that which was first reached in 1904.

5. Sufficient has been said of the "deficit" of 1908 to remove all the disquieting ideas associated with the expression, but before writing of the other results, important and interesting, of the loan of 1904, it may be of interest if I show in what way the Sierra Leone main line supplies both a warning and an encouragement to those who believe that railways exercise a magical effect in developing the resources of a country. The Report on the Blue Book of 1905 shows that in that year the railway, for the first time, earned more than enough to pay the working expenses of the line: the construction of the line began in 1896, and from time to time the completed sections were opened to traffic; thus in 1901 the public had the benefit of a working railway 75 miles in length, and in February of 1903

the distance handed over to, and controlled by, the Railway Open Lines Department was increased to 137 miles, yet in 1904 the working expenses exceeded the receipts by £5,000. There was nothing abnormal in this deficit, and it was, in the year mentioned, an accepted belief amongst the traders and firms in Freetown that the undertaking would not pay for many years. The Sierra Leone Railway was the first railway to be constructed in British West Africa, and this despondent view as to its future arose from the fact that since the gala day in 1896 when the first sod was turned, the annual working of the line had shattered, one by one, so many alluring hopes. Thus the waterways which are touched during the first 60 miles, instead of bringing regular and increasing traffic, proved competitors impossible to overcome at paying rates; again, it was thought that prosperous towns would spring up at the points where ancient trade routes were crossed, but it was found that the caravans of natives, produce-laden from the upper country, filed, one by one, over the line, stopping a moment perhaps to gaze with wonder at the new, big, crossroad with its mystery of iron, and then continued their journey southwards across hill and swamp until some long recognized market was reached at which the traders used canoe transport down to the port at Bonthe. It was hoped that traffic would improve when Moyamba and Bo, two agricultural centres respectively 75 miles and 137 miles distant from Freetown, were reached, but it soon became apparent that ordinary West African agriculture is insufficient to support a railway. This condition of stagnation still continues all the way from Freetown harbour to the Blama palm belt; with one exception no station on this section is busy, the goods sheds are empty, and nowhere is there a store or factory, under European management, belonging to any of the larger trading firms. The exception mentioned is at Bo, 137 miles, a small town reached by the line in 1903, but unknown to traders until 1906, when the Government constructed a good road connecting it with a fairly prolific palm country to the north, with the result that many traders as well as two of the European firms established stores there, and by thus creating a market at which the natives could sell produce for good prices, caused them to desert an ancient trade route which, crossing the line at a point 10 miles nearer to Freetown than Bo, led to Sumbuya, a trading station in touch with Bonthe.

6. Of the several works detailed in the Schedule to the Loan Ordinance of 1903, the railway is, of course, the most important, but I think the "Hill Station" scheme, authorized at a cost of £86,000, is of more interest. The "Hill Station" is a township designed exclusively for Europeans and built at an altitude of 800 feet near the western end of the half circle of high hills overlooking Freetown and the harbour; the Mountain Railway gives easy access to the Station, while a pure water supply, beautiful scenery, and provision for tennis and other games, enable the residents to live under pleasant and healthy conditions. It is not in these things, however, that the distinctive interest lies. The notable fact is that the Hill Station in Sierra Leone was planned and designed as a fortress against the mosquito, and was the first important tangible sign that war was

to be waged against malaria; such signs have a real effect on health, and as Freetown is the gate to West Africa, all ships from Europe calling there on the outward journey, every passenger coming out for the first time to the dreaded coast sees in the conspicuous red roofs of the lofty Station an assurance that, owing to the discoveries of gifted men, the conditions of life are being, and have been, so improved that, having a sound constitution and being determined to lead a temperate healthy life, he will be able to complete his tour of service without serious illness and again see the red roofed "fortress" on his way back to home. The township is, as already stated, intended for European residents only, and this principle of segregation is carried out as far as practicable; thus, there are no houses with native children, and each resident has to comply with the Government rule that not more than one native servant is to sleep on the premises: nevertheless the Hill Station is not and never was intended to be an experiment in the direction of ascertaining whether complete immunity from malaria can be attained by isolation of Europeans from the native community. It is obvious that Europeans serving on the West Coast cannot live the absolutely isolated life requisite if the principle of segregation is intended to be strictly carried out in a scientific manner. The judge has to try natives with the assistance of a native jury, the Medical Officer is in duty bound to attend to the sick natives whether adults or children, and as neither judge nor doctor nor any other official can be constantly protected by mosquito netting, it necessarily follows that in the course of their duties they may at any time become exposed to infection. It is the fact, however, that the health of officers at the Hill Station has been better than that of officers residing in Freetown or in the Protectorate, and this condition is doubtless in part due to the lessened risk of infection which is the result of the limited compliance with the principle of segregation. It is unsatisfactory that neither data nor statistics of strict scientific value are, or ever will be, forthcoming to prove the extent to which the improvement in the health of the officials, which has undoubtedly taken place since the establishment of the Hill Station in 1905, is due to immunity resulting from the partially segregated mode of life of the residents.

7. In 1898 the conditions of life on the West Coast were still unaffected by the great discovery that the bite of an infected mosquito was the cause of malarial fever, but since that date both Europeans and natives have learnt this weighty truth and now take precautions, formerly undreamt of, not only against malaria but also against other dangers incidental to life in a large tropical town. The fact is that the discovery of the mosquito theory respecting the cause of malaria, coupled with the untiring zeal and labours of the medical officers, has not only lessened the danger and frequency of that disease, but has made men realize that by sensible and quite easy precautions a temperate person has every chance of avoiding illness. The health statistics, therefore, vary with the two periods; those which relate to the years since the Hill Station was established are within the quinine-taking, health-studying era, while the

previous statistics relate to a time when hygiene was but little studied; it was the age of ignorance and carelessness, when nearly all thought that health was a matter of fate, and when some, from hopelessness and perhaps from fear, lived in a condition which aggravated the effects of the climate. Nowadays all have hope, and it is wonderful how widespread is the new knowledge; children know it because it is taught in the schools, the Protectorate natives in Freetown (about one-third of the population) view mosquitos as bad animals like snakes, and the housewife regards the sanitary officers in a friendly way, and does her best to keep her compound clean and free from stagnant water. From what has been said it is obvious that the health statistics concerning the European officials who lived during 1908 in Freetown and at the Hill Station respectively, do not afford evidence as to what improvement has been effected by the experiment in segregation represented by the Hill Station. The comparison of the figures is also complicated by the fact that the officials living in Freetown are in number more than double the residents at the Station, and that many of them constantly travel into the Protectorate where, owing to inferior house accommodation and exposure to rain and sun, some risk to health is unavoidable.

These general observations, however, will be thought insufficient, and there will be a desire to know what testimony on this subject is afforded by the health statistics. The European officials in Freetown and at the Hill Station are less than 100 in number, and recognizing the danger of generalizing from a few the medical department have adopted a system by which the relative health in different years and different localities is expressed by the days on which, during a year, the officials resident at a particular place have been on the sick list. According to this test it is found that the ante-quinine period, of which the year 1898 may be taken as a type, is the least healthy, and that the improvement shown ten years later, notable in all cases, is greatest in the case of residents at the Hill Station, less marked with the first grade officers dwelling in Freetown, and smallest in the case of the artisans, fitters, and drivers employed on the railway, who live at Clines Town in the eastern ward of the city.

Ante-Quinine Period—type 1898.

Days on Sick List owing to climatic diseases.	Days on Sick List owing to non-climatic diseases.
7·85	2·9

Ante-Mosquito Period—type 1908.

	Days on Sick List owing to climatic diseases.	Days on Sick List owing to non-climatic diseases.
Hill Station	0·3	0·6
Freetown and Clines Town.	2·74	2·0
Freetown (first grade officers)	2·4	0·25
Clines Town	2·9	3·0

8. As already stated one of the works authorized by the Loan Ordinance was the Freetown Water Supply: the system was completed in 1905, and the fact that all now enjoy the blessing of pure water must be an important factor in the improvement in health shown by the statistics quoted. The superiority of the Hill Station is, of course, not alone due either to increased knowledge of hygiene or to segregation; the fresh air and quiet, restful nights obtained at an altitude of 800 feet give the residents a great benefit not enjoyed by the officials in Freetown, who have to get inured not only to the noises common to all large towns, but also to a continuous, insistent medley of sounds from gramophones, concertinas, and tom-toms in the evening, and from musical exercises on brass instruments at schools in the early morning before the ordinary hours of work.

The statistics show that the railway employees at Clines Town were, in 1908, more liable to non-climatic diseases than the other officials living in Freetown; this difference is perhaps natural and is to a great extent explained by the fact that the artisans and drivers, all respectable, hardworking, skilled, loyal men, believe that a stout heart is the best prophylactic against the diseases of a dangerous and depressing climate, and consequently are apt to be careless in avoiding chills, exposure to sun, &c.

9. The system of which the Hill Station is an example should undoubtedly be followed whenever practicable, and this principle was observed recently when the headquarters of the Railway District were constructed at Kennema. I believe that this new district station is at present without rival on the West Coast; the altitude (1,000 feet), the scenery, the pure water, the cool, stone-built houses, make it possible for the political officers to live under health-restoring conditions during the one week in the month which is not spent on patrol.

10. The West Coast obtained the sobriquet "The White Man's Grave" early in the 19th century, and as Sierra Leone was then and for many years afterwards the premier settlement, it became, and still is, specially identified with the phrase. This digression is made because I think it most necessary to call attention to the fact that the statistics quoted show that the words have become a libel, and that this grave-yard metaphor should itself be buried.

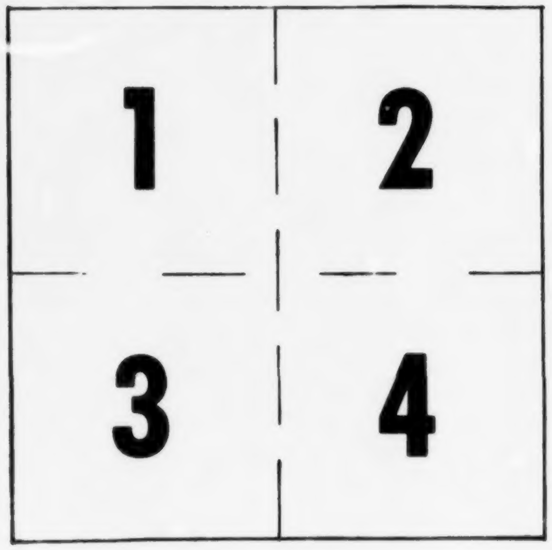
11. Of the works authorized by the Loan Ordinance, the Freetown Wharf is the last that requires mention. The original scheme was to construct a wharf alongside which steamers could berth, but the depth of water and the swell which occurs at certain seasons in the harbour led to a modification. The scheme actually carried out consists in the construction of two jetties, details of which are given in the Report, and of large warehouses having an aggregate floor space of 40,000 square feet; by these arrangements 500 tons of cargo can be handled in a day.

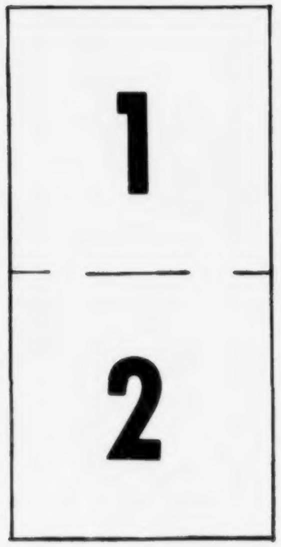
12. Having referred, perhaps too fully, to the Loan Expenditure, I propose saying but little concerning the financial position

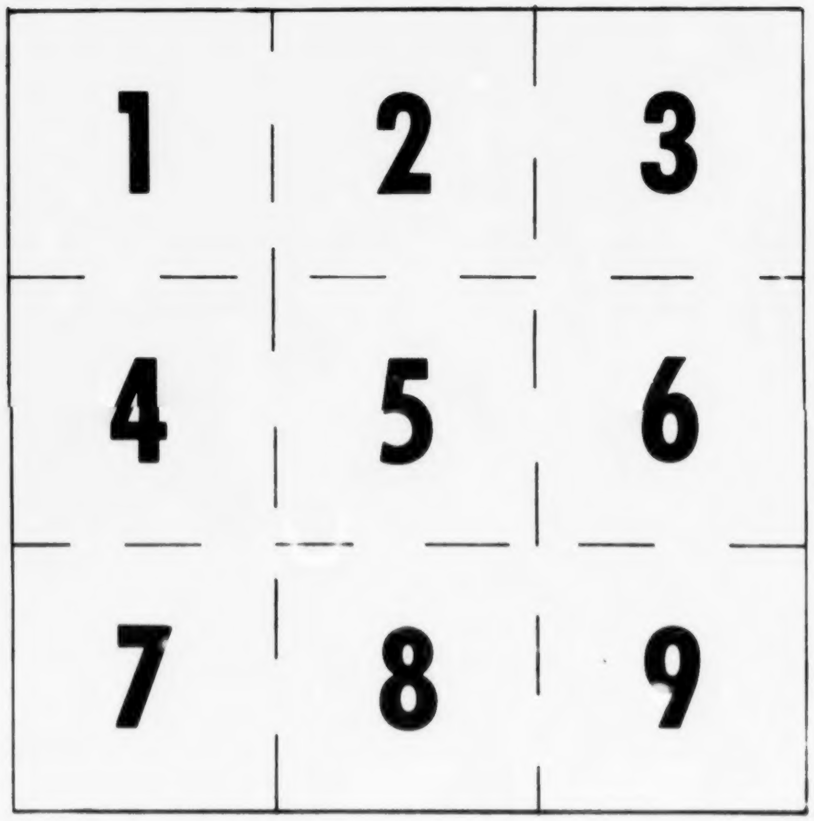
or condition of the Colony during 1908, because these matters are fully dealt with in the Report, which supplies in detail information as to its general state during the year. The report, and perhaps also this despatch, may lead to a desire for information as to possibilities of future development, as well as to what opportunities exist for the investment of capital. It is very difficult to supply information on these points. Sierra Leone, like our other Colonies on the West Coast, is an agricultural country, and there will be no marked advance and no prospect for profitable investment of capital until, by Government direction and assistance, the native farmers can be enabled to grow, in quantities sufficiently large for regular export, products in demand in the European markets which, although plentifully yielded by semi-indigenous plants, have not yet, for want of proper cultivation and transport facilities, reached the stage as regards quality and quantity necessary for profitable exportation. Experiments have shown that the okra plant, if cultivated on a sufficiently extensive scale, will yield a fibre which can be relied upon to fetch a higher price than jute, and in favour of this form of cultivation is the fact that as the fruit, for the sake of which the plant is now grown, is in large demand, the fibre, as a by-product, will yield to the native, with but little additional labour, an added profit now uncontemplated. When it is remembered that Sierra Leone is the nearest to England of all the tropical possessions with well-equipped steamship communication, it must be obvious that the possibilities of fruit cultivation require consideration. As you are aware, a properly organised Agricultural Department will commence in Sierra Leone in 1911, but at present, having no expert advisers, I can make no definite suggestions as to what kind of fruit will, if cultivated, prove the most remunerative; it is my personal belief, however, that a very large fruit trade could be established between Sierra Leone and Europe, especially in pine-apples. The prevalent variety of this fruit appears to me to have excellent qualities, and no doubt can exist as to the suitability of soil and climate. It is, however, necessary to point out that no success in this direction can be hoped for unless the Government organizes some cheap and reliable form of transport from the districts within 80 miles radius of Freetown to that port. I foresee no difficulty in providing a sufficiently satisfactory form of transport; as regards the east and south-east, the railway and the Yonni tramway will serve, while from the north-east it is assured by the existing steamboat communication between Freetown and Port Lokko.

Finally, if, as I hope, a regular steamboat service is established between Freetown and Tawiya, the whole of the northern alluvial coastal lands will be brought into touch with the port, and, consequently, fruit, corn, and all other low-priced produce, now valueless for want of market, will yield a regular profit both to the natives, to investors, and to general revenue. It should be remembered that railways and steamer routes form only the main arteries of trade transport, and that to tap the actual resources of the country it is necessary to supplement the system of wholesale transport by some means which will enable produce

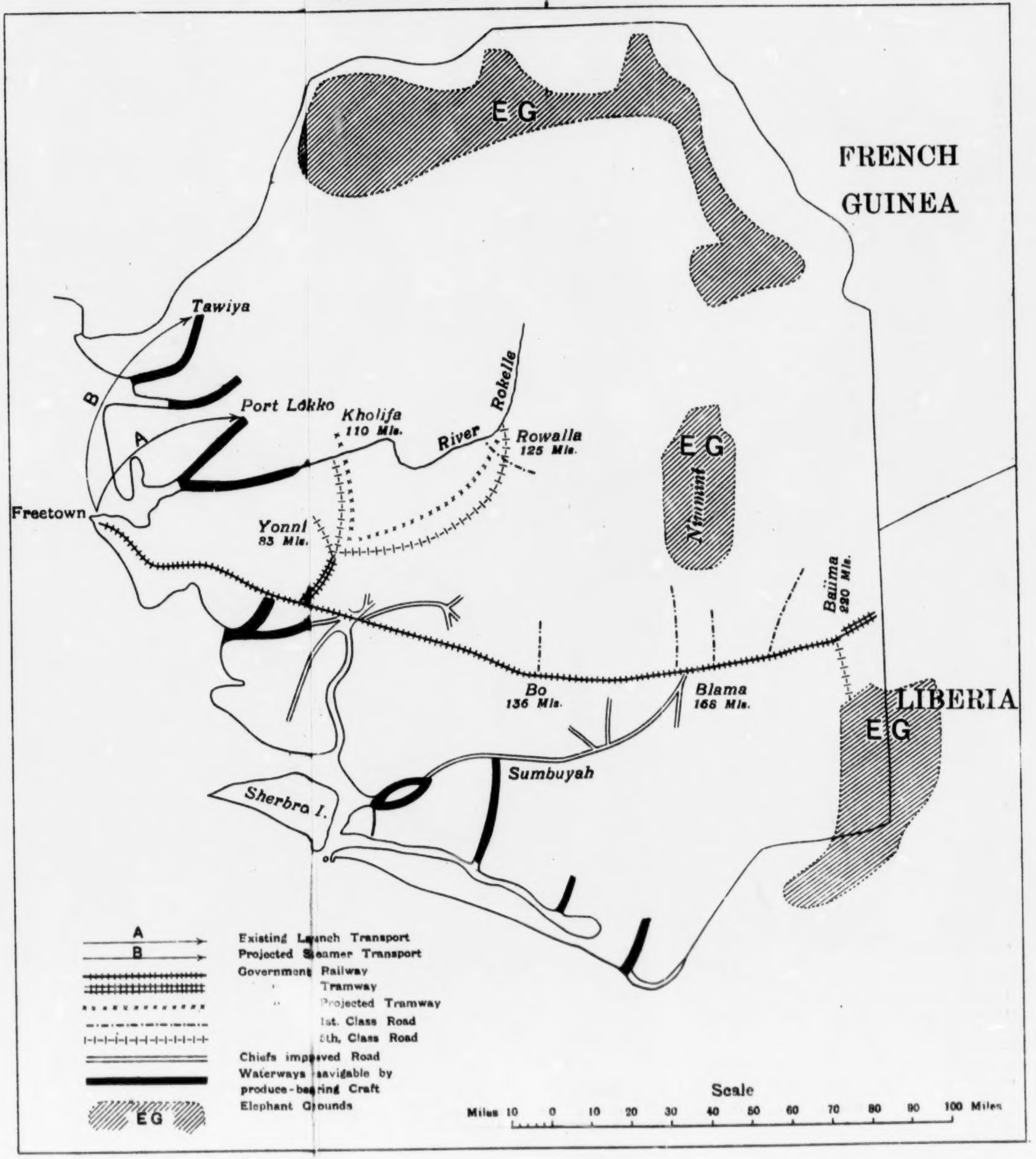
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.







OUTLINE MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SHOWING TRADE CHANNELS


FRENCH GUINEA
LIBERIA
E G
E G
E G
Nimmini
Tawiya
Port Lokko
Kholifa 110 Mls.
River Rokelle
Rowalla 125 Mls.
Freetown
Yonni 83 Mls.
Bo 136 Mls.
Blama 168 Mls.
Baiima 220 Mls.
Sumbuyah
Sherbro I.
A
B
A Existing Launch Transport
B Projected Steamer Transport
Government Railway
" Tramway
" Projected Tramway
1st. Class Road
5th. Class Road
Chiefs improved Road
Waterways navigable by produce-bearing Craft
Elephant Grounds
E G
Scale
Miles 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 Miles

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1909.

to be dealt with otherwise than by the wasteful method of head-carriage. The problem of minor transport on the West Coast is as yet unsolved, but I believe that the solution will be found in the employ of pack-animals.

I have, &c.,

L. PROBYN,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1908.

1. Sierra Leone is situated between 7° and 10° N. latitude, and between 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of W. longitude. The estimated area of the Colony and Protectorate is 32,000 square miles.

2. The population of the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at 1,250,000, such estimate being based, as regards the Protectorate, on the number of tax-paying houses, the houses being credited with from 5 to 10 occupants apiece, the numbers varying according to the tribes.

The population of the peninsula of Sierra Leone is estimated at 76,773.

3. The administrative divisions of the Colony and Protectorate in 1908 were as follows:—

*Freetown Police District.
*Waterloo District.—Headquarters Waterloo.
Karene District.—Headquarters Batkanu.
Ronietta District.—Headquarters Moyamba.
Railway District.—Headquarters Kennema.
Central District.—Headquarters Makondu.
Koinadugu District.—Headquarters Kaballa.
†Sherbro District.—Headquarters Bonthe.

The system of administration differs in the Colony and Protectorate.

4. The accompanying map shows the various trade channels, as well as the elephant grounds, of Sierra Leone.

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* Entirely Colony.
† Partly Colony, partly Protectorate.

I.—FINANCIAL.

5. The revenue for 1908, including receipts from the sale of Crown Lands, amounted to £320,999 13*s*. 0*d*., being £37,389 7*s*. 0*d*. less than the Estimate. The revenue was less than the expenditure by £20,871 11*s*. 7*d*.

6. The revenue for 1908 did not reach the receipts for 1907 by £38,104 8*s*. 6*d*. The main decreases under the individual heads are shewn in paragraph 9 of this report.

The main source of increase was the Protectorate House Tax, which exceeded the amount collected in 1907 by £2,262 10*s*.

7. The heavy falling off in Customs receipts is accounted for by the drop in the prices paid in the European markets for the principal products of the Colony, especially palm kernels and palm oil, thus limiting to a proportional extent the purchasing power of the community. The railway receipts were necessarily also affected thereby.

8. In the Estimates for 1908, the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate, which in previous years had been shewn separately, were for the first time merged with those of the Colony.

9. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

—	1908.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	163,522	198,058	—	34,536
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse dues	4,658	4,083	575	—
Licences, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	57,457	4,565	52,892[*]	—
Fees of Court or Office, payments for Specific Services, and re-imbursements-in-aid.	9,407	8,031	1,376	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	8,967	8,767	200	—
Rents of Government property ...	445	581	—	136
Interest	4,270	6,734	—	2,464
Miscellaneous Receipts	355	627	—	272
Railway	71,633	74,513	—	2,880
Land Sales	6	1,011	—	1,005
Protectorate	—	52,134	—	52,134[*]
Tramways	275	—	275	—
Total	320,995	359,104	55,318	93,427

[*] See preceding paragraph.

10. The revenue for the five years 1904-1908, together with the Customs and railway receipts, is as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Customs.	Railway.
	£	£	£
1904	240,472	132,798	35,642
1905	281,523	143,537	57,786
1906	305,074	162,656	62,019
1907	359,104	198,058	74,512
1908	321,000	163,522	71,909

11. The payments during the year amounted to £341,871 4*s.* 7*d.*, being £24,640 15*s.* 5*d.* less than the Estimate, and £20,871 11*s.* 7*d.* in excess of the revenue. The expenditure was less than that for 1907 by £3,695 19*s.* 1*d.* The excess of expenditure has been met from surplus balances in previous years.

12. The sum of £341,871 4*s.* 7*d.* includes an amount of £34,553 9*s.* 2*d.* for special expenditure on works of an extraordinary nature. Of this amount, £20,474 5*s.* 2*d.* was spent on the construction of the tramways between Boia and the Yonni terminus, and Baiima and Pendembu; £27 8*s.* was spent in connexion with traction engines for the Protectorate roads; the remaining £14,051 16*s.* was expended by the Railway Department on the purchase of additional rolling stock, and of steel footbridges for attachment to several of the railway bridges crossing the larger rivers. After deduction of the cost of these extraordinary works from the total expenditure for the year, the normal expenditure amounted to £307,317 15*s.* 5*d.* which is less than the revenue receipts by £13,681 17*s.* 7*d.*

13. Supplementary expenditure to the extent of £11,430 2*s.* 8*d.* was authorised during the year, which, together with the amount appropriated by law, aggregated £377,942 2*s.* 8*d.* Owing, however, to savings under nearly every head of the Estimates, there was a net saving under all heads of £36,070 18*s.* 1*d.* as compared with the total amount authorised.

14. The cost of the retention of the detachment of the West African Frontier Force on the Liberian frontier during the year amounted to £1,290 3*s.* 5*d.* This brings the total expense incurred in this connexion since an expedition was sent in 1905 against the Kissi tribe, which inhabits that portion of the country (see paragraph 222), up to £13,526 6*s.* 11*d.*

15. The tramways alluded to in paragraph 12 were completed and opened for traffic during the year. They will be further dealt with in Section X.

16. The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1907:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1908.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges on account of Public Debt...	59,671	54,435	5,236	—
Pensions	6,617	7,299	—	682
Governor and Legislature	5,996	6,216	—	220
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	4,316	3,874	442	—
Provincial Administration	26,242	2,701	23,541*	—
Treasury	2,986	2,552	434	—
Customs Department	11,301	11,015	286	—
Audit Department	2,357	2,120	237	—
Port and Marine Department ...	1,116	1,053	63	—
Legal Departments	7,003	5,266	1,737	—
Carried forward ...	127,605	96,531	31,976	902

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* See paragraph 8.

Heads of Expenditure.	1908.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	127,605	96,531	31,976	902
Civil Police	8,631	8,599	32	—
Prisons	6,151	5,147	1,004	—
Medical Department	15,501	7,030	8,471	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,962	5,087	—	125
Nursing Home	810	830	—	20
Education	6,444	3,377	3,067	—
Miscellaneous Services	9,097	10,918	—	1,821
Post Office	10,761	9,792	969	—
Agricultural Department	2,601	—	2,601	—
Public Works Department	3,503	2,950	553	—
Do. Recurrent	10,452	10,164	288	—
Do. Extraordinary ...	11,791	15,374	—	3,583
West African Frontier Force ...	20,924	22,890	—	1,966
Sierra Leone Government Railway	81,958	67,460	14,498	—
Protectorate	—	37,754*	—	37,754
Railway Special Expenditure ...	—	—	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special).	20,502	41,664	—	21,162
Tramways	178	—	178	—
Total	341,871	345,567	63,637	67,333

* See paragraph 8.

The sum of £81,958 which is given as the expenditure on the railway is misleading unless it is remembered that it includes the Special Expenditure on works of an extraordinary nature referred to in paragraph 12, amounting to £14,051 15*s.*, which was expended on the purchase of additional rolling stock and steel footbridges. Deducting this sum, the normal railway expenditure is reduced to £67,906, which is less than the railway receipts by £4,003.

17. The expenditure for the five years 1904-1908 is as follows:—

	£
1904	237,892
1905	295,490
1906	285,661
1907	345,567
1908	341,871

18. In comparing the ratio of "Personal Emoluments" to "Other Charges," it is interesting to note how largely that ratio has changed within the last ten years. In 1898 "Personal Emoluments" amounted to £62,850, "Other Charges" to £24,926, a proportion of 100 to 40, or 5 to 2. In 1903 the figures were £91,705 and £59,405 respectively, the ratio having altered to 100 to 65, or 20 to 13. In the year under review the proportion of "Other Charges" has still further risen: "Personal Emoluments" in 1908 amounted to £118,707, and "Other Charges" to £100,072, being in the ratio of 100 to 84, or 25 to 21, as compared with 100 to 40 in 1898.

19. The net proceeds of the loan of £1,250,000 issued in 1904, which at the beginning of the year was shown in the books of the Colony as £1,195,646 0*s.* 7*d.*, were further reduced during

the year by £230 15*s*., being the expenses of conversion of Bonds into Stock.

20. The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings the cost of which is chargeable to Loan Funds, amounted to £13,844 9*s*. 3*d*. including sums spent on the railway, the Freetown Wharf jetties, and the barracks at the Moa River.

The total expenditure on works chargeable to loan funds amounted at the end of the year to £1,180,659 19*s*. 7*d*., leaving a balance of £14,755 6*s*. still available.

21. The excess of assets over liabilities at the end of 1908 amounted to £104,399 12*s*. exclusive of the value of the Railway Department stores on hand at that date, amounting to £26,795 5*s*. 6*d*. This is exclusive also of stores on hand in the Public Works Department.

22. The funded debt of the Colony at the close of 1907 amounted to £1,280,137. This amount was increased during 1908 by £1,010, being the premium at 3 per cent. on Bonds for £29,200, and at 2 per cent. on Bonds for £6,700, surrendered for conversion into Inscribed Stock.

At the first annual drawing of Bonds for redemption, which took place in May, 1908, the value of the Bonds drawn for payment was £12,400, of which £7,700 were Bonds already surrendered to the Government for conversion into Inscribed Stock. The remaining £4,700 were Bonds in the possession of the public, and were paid off on or after 1st June, 1908.

23. The Public Debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,276,447, made up as follows:—

	£
4 per cent. ten-year Convertible Bonds	566,800
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929-1954	709,647

The yearly contributions to the Sinking Funds for both Bonds and Stocks have been made as they became due, the money in the Sinking Fund for the Bonds at the date of the annual drawing being utilised in paying off the drawn Bonds. The amount to the credit of each Sinking Fund on the 31st December, 1908, was as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Sinking Fund—Bonds	3,052	0	10
,, ,, Inscribed Stock ...	10,606	19	11
Total	13,659	0	9

Deducting this sum, the funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,262,787 19*s*. 3*d*.

24. In addition to the current coin of the United Kingdom the following coins are legal tender in Sierra Leone:—

		£	*s*.	*d*.
Gold	Spanish and Mexican Doubloon ...	3	4	0
	20-franc pieces of the Latin Union	0	15	10
	American Eagle ($10)	2	1	0
	,, Half-Eagle ($5)	1	0	6
	,, Quarter-Eagle ($2·50) ...	0	10	3
Silver ...	5-franc pieces of the Latin Union	0	3	10½

Of these coins, the 5-franc piece is the only one at all frequently met with, it being in considerable use among the natives of those districts of the Protectorate which adjoin French Guinea.

25. Until recently, the three-penny piece was the lowest form of coin in practical currency, a fact which naturally tended to keep prices high. This has now been overcome by considerable importations of pennies and half-pennies, and quite lately even farthings have been introduced and will no doubt become popular as soon as the people have had time to accustom themselves to their use.

26. The Bank of British West Africa, Limited, has a branch at Freetown, together with an agency at Bo, in the Railway District.

Some of the mercantile houses in the Colony also issue Bills of Exchange on their principals in Europe.

Inland Bills for sums of not less than £25 are issued at par by the Colonial Treasurer on the sub-Treasuries of the various districts.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Freetown Municipality.

27. The financial year of the Freetown Municipality is from 1st November to 31st October.

The total revenue received from all sources from 1st November, 1907, to 31st October, 1908, amounted to £9,118, showing an increase of £100 on the revenue of the previous financial year. The expenditure, including certain sums still due at the end of the financial year, amounted to £8,851, which is less than the expenditure of the previous year by £231.

28. The Municipality is in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from the Government of £1,800. The following table shows the revenue (including the grant-in-aid) and expenditure of the Municipality in the five years 1904-1908:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1904	6,567	7,685
1905	6,185	7,163
1906	6,582	6,672
1907	9,018	9,082
1908	9,118	8,851

The increase of revenue in 1907 is due to the levying of Water Rates, which in the year under review contributed £1,606 to the revenue.

The Municipality has a debt of £2,800, lent to them by the Government for the carrying out of municipal works. To the Sinking Fund provided for its redemption, £75 was paid in the year under review by the Municipality.

Sherbro Municipal Board.

29. The revenue of the Sherbro Municipal Board, which is derived from proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees, supplemented by

a grant of £300 per annum from the Colonial House Tax collected within the Sherbro district, and an annual grant-in-aid of £152 from general revenue for the Sanitary Police in Bonthe, amounted in 1908 to £1,411, as against £1,440 in 1907. The expenditure for the same period was £1,021, as compared with £935 in the previous year.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

30. The value of imports into the Colony, valued for statistical purposes at their invoiced values less trade discounts, but plus the cost of packing and the charges for freight, insurance, and commission to port of entry, amounted for the year 1908 to £813,700, being a decrease of £174,322, or 17·6 per cent., from the figures of the previous year.

31. The following table shows the value of the imports for the five years 1904-1908:—

	£
1904	717,236
1905	702,648
1906	885,851
1907	988,022
1908	813,700

32. At the end of 1907 there set in a period of general commercial depression, which in Sierra Leone was all the more marked as coming after three years of rapidly increasing prosperity. The figures for the year under review show a considerable decrease in Customs revenue and in the values of the import and export trade, which, under the circumstances, is not to be wondered at, and which was, indeed, fully anticipated. It is none the less disappointing, however, to have to record a set-back after two such good years as 1906 and 1907.

33. The gross revenue collected by the Customs Department in 1908 amounted to £172,632, or after deducting drawbacks and refunds of duty, to £170,377, which is a decrease of £33,449, or 16·4 per cent., from the net yield for 1907.

It may be mentioned that the amount collected by the Customs Department in 1907 constitutes a record.

34. The import duties, of which £38,662 were *ad valorem*, and £126,166 specific, formed 96 per cent. of the total gross revenue of the Department, and are alone responsible for the falling off in the Customs revenue.

35. This decrease in import duties, amounting to £34,203, of which £7,088 is *ad valorem* and £27,115 specific, is due to the fall in the prices obtaining in the European markets for the principal products of this Colony, and the corresponding fall in the prices paid locally. The imports rise and fall with the prices

which the people of this Colony can obtain for their produce, as these prices are the determining factor of their purchasing capacity.

Some of the large firms, moreover, anticipating a continuation of trade prosperity, imported in 1907 more goods than under the altered conditions they were able to dispose of profitably. The subsequent slow liquidation of this surplus stock has to a certain extent restricted fresh business.

36. The imports show a decrease in all the heads under which they are classified.

Predominant among the articles showing a decrease are those which are looked upon by the people as luxuries, *e.g.*, spirits, tobacco, cotton goods, silks, beads, &c.

37. Specie has declined by £38,906, in sympathy with the depressed condition of trade, in consequence of which lesser quantities were required by the bank to meet demands.

38. The returns show that the number of bullocks imported falls short by 549 head, valued at £3,680, of the number imported in 1907.

This decrease, being more apparent than real, requires some explanation. The greater portion of the bullocks slaughtered for purposes of consumption in this Colony has for years past been brought by sea from Senegal, Gambia, and French Guinea. During the year 1908 the enormous decrease in exportable products of the soil in French Guinea, more particularly in rubber, deprived the natives of a great part of the resources necessary for their maintenance and payment of taxes; they were thus compelled to sell their cattle in order to supply their needs, and meet their obligations. The price of their bullocks dropped in consequence to such an extent that Senegal and the Gambia could no longer compete. Moreover, a large number of the bullocks supplied by French Guinea last year were brought overland to Port Lokko, and conveyed thence to Freetown by canoe, and as no statistics are kept of the inland trade none of the bullocks thus imported figure in the returns.

In point of fact, the consumption of beef is on the increase, and the number of bullocks slaughtered in Freetown for human use in 1908 is in excess of that in 1907.

39. The rises in imports comprise coal and groundnuts, both on the free list, and salt. The import of unmanufactured tobacco has increased in value, but decreased in quantity. As regards coal, that commodity being admitted free of duty, does not, of course, contribute directly to the revenue of the Customs Department. Its importation is recognised, however, as requiring the employment of labour, and as such it contributes indirectly to the commercial prosperity of the Colony. The increased importation of coal is due to the marked improvement in the volume of the shipping trade. Although the value of the unmanufactured tobacco imported is higher than last year, its contribution to the Customs revenue is less owing to decreased quantity, and to the fact that it is liable to specific duty.

Spirits and other Alcoholic Liquors.

40. The following table shows the total quantity of alcoholic liquors of all kinds, viz.:—Ale and porter, liqueurs and cordials, spirits and wines, imported during each of the last five years, together with their declared value, and the amount of duty paid:—

Year.	Quantities.	Declared Value.	Duty Paid.
	Gallons.	£	£
1904	420,901	52,058	57,921
1905	386,551	53,391	66,378
1906	392,311	59,277	74,287
1907	510,142	70,243	93,361
1908	385,522	57,657	74,051

The next table gives the same information with regard to spirits only (brandy, gin, rum, whisky, and other spirits):—

Year.	Quantities.	Declared Value.	Duty Paid.
	Gallons.	£	£
1904	355,978	39,134	55,426
1905	313,239	37,955	62,653
1906	318,785	43,524	70,372
1907	431,959	54,872	89,498
1908	317,066	44,214	70,450

41. The following are the duties chargeable on spirits:—

(1) Spirits and strong waters of which the degree can be ascertained by Tralles' alcoholometer:—

(*a*) when of or under the strength of 50 per cent. of pure alcohol by such alcoholometer.	Per Imperial gallon or part thereof—5*s*.
(*b*) when of a greater strength ...	Per Imperial gallon or part thereof—5*s*., plus a further sum of 1*d*. for each unit per cent. of pure alcohol above 50 per cent.
(2) Spirits, being sweetened or mixed so that the degree of strength cannot be ascertained.	Per Imperial gallon—5*s*.
(3) Spirits or strong waters such as naphtha in its crude state, methylated spirits, and perfumed waters, which are totally unfit for use as a potable spirit.	*Ad valorem*—10 per cent.
(4) Spirits unenumerated	Per Imperial gallon—5*s*.

42. The import duties on alcoholic liquors contributed in 1908 43.46 per cent. to the total (net) Customs revenue, as compared with 46·98 per cent. in 1907.

43. In connexion with the foregoing tables, the following facts will be of interest:—

Up to the 12th November, 1904, the import duty on spirits per proof gallon, as determined by Sykes' hydrometer, was 3*s*. On that date the duty was raised to 4*s*. per gallon, and continued at that rate until the 23rd May, 1905, when the Tralles' alcoholometer was substituted for Sykes' hydrometer, and caused the import duty on spirits to be re-adjusted as follows:—

The duty on spirits when of or under the strength of 50 per cent. of pure alcohol according to Tralles' alcoholometer, to be 4*s*. per gallon, together with a further sum of 1*d*. for each unit per cent. of pure alcohol above 50 per cent. This rate remained in force until August, 1908, when it was raised to the rate actually in force. During the last four months of 1908, that is to say from the time when the additional duty of 1*s*. per gallon was imposed, the proportionate decrease in the importation of spirits was considerably greater than during the first eight months of the year. Taking the decrease in gallons of imported spirits from January to August, 1908, as a basis for ascertaining what would have been the probable total contraction for 1908 had the import duty on spirits undergone no alteration, the figure arrived at is 35,887 gallons. The actual decrease in 1908 was 115,077 gallons, there being thus a difference of 79,190 gallons, with a consequent net loss to revenue of £11,573, to be accounted for. This basis would only be conclusive, however, if the general conditions of trade had remained constant throughout the year. As a matter of fact the value of the commercial imports subject to duty which were imported during the last four months of the year is proportionately less than that of those imported from January to August, from which it may be assumed that the decrease in the importation of spirits after August, 1908, though undoubtedly caused to some extent, probably to a large extent, by the raising of the duty, was also affected by the general trade depression, which was more pronounced then than at the beginning of the year. It is worth recording that after the raising of the duty on spirits in 1904 and 1905, the importation of spirits promptly declined, and did not fully revive until 1907.

44. The total value of exports for 1908 amounted to £736,755, being a decrease of £94,504, or 11·37 per cent., from that of 1907.

45. Exports are valued for statistical purposes as they lie in the port of shipment, such value including cost of packages in which they are contained, and all charges incidental to placing them on board the exporting vessel, but exclusive of expenses of conveyance to port of destination.

46. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1904-1908, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.				Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.	Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904 ...	356.024	40,052	77,875	10,919	128,846	484,870
1905 ...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150
1906 ...	526,342	43,526	121,451	25,304	190,281	716,623
1907 ...	675,544	44,118	96,827	14,770	155,715	831,259
1908 ...	529,849	36,364	152,396	18,146	206,906	736,755

From this table it will be seen that, classing the exports under the two heads of:—

1. Produce and Manufactures of the Colony;
2. British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures,

the total decrease in exports is caused by the decrease under head 1. The increase under head 2 is not, however, a matter for satisfaction, being almost entirely the result of an increased exportation of specie.

47. The general decrease in exports is to be accounted for by the unsatisfactory condition of trade during 1908, and the consequent relatively bad prices paid locally for the products of the country. The items principally affected are palm oil, palm kernels, kola nuts, and rubber. On the other hand, there has been a considerable increase in the export of locally-grown rice and other provisions.

48. It is not improbable that when the local prices of the produce of the Colony dropped, the natives suspected that the offering of reduced prices was the outcome of a desire on the part of the European firms to drive hard bargains with them. The physical wants of the native being fully satisfied by the soil, he is under no compulsion to sell his produce except when it suits his convenience to do so, and it seems likely, therefore, that to some extent the contraction in the export trade is due to his holding back his produce in the hope that prices would again reach the high level of 1907.

49. The export of specie has swollen by £55,569, as compared with 1907. The probable cause of this is that owing to the depression of trade in 1908, local demands for specie were so indifferent that the Bank operating in the Colony found it more advantageous to distribute it elsewhere. Of the total export of £152,396, £46,791 found its way to the United Kingdom; of the remainder, Gambia took £56,234, and Southern Nigeria £22,200.

50. The fall in the export of coal is, in view of the increase in the shipping trade, somewhat anomalous.

51. In 1907 the export of benniseed, which for some years past had been languishing, ceased altogether. This was due to the fact that the limited supply available caused by a short crop, created a keener demand locally and was retained for home consumption. The better price obtainable for this article in 1908, together with an output in excess of local requirements, has caused a revival, and it is gratifying to record an export in 1908 of 188 tons, valued at £1,897.

52. Notwithstanding the greatly reduced prices of ginger during the year 1908, its export has increased by 19 tons, valued at £293. The average price in the European market in 1908 was £23 per ton, as against £27 in 1907, and £25 in 1906, so that considering the large contraction in the price of 1908 from that of 1907, viz.: £4 per ton, the results may be looked upon as satisfactory. Of the efforts of the Government and others to improve the methods of the cultivation and preparation of ginger, something will be said under the heading of agriculture.

53. For the last five years the export of piassava has been steadily improving, and in 1908 amounted to 516 tons, valued at £8,628, which is an increase of 187 tons, or 56·8 per cent., valued at £2,880, on the output of 1907, and this notwithstanding the fact that the average price in the European market in 1908 was £2 per ton less than in 1907, and £3 per ton less than in 1906. The greater portion of the piassava exported is produced in th Sherbro District; of the 516 tons exported in 1908, 487 tons were shipped from Sherbro. Of the total value of the year's output, viz., £8,628, piassava to the value of £5,177 went to the United Kingdom, the remainder to Germany.

54. Since 1904 the export of rice has been steadily increasing, and in 1908 reached a total of 37,692 bushels, valued at £7,206, which is an increase of 6,924 bushels, valued at £1,571, on the export of the previous year. In 1904 the export only amounted to 2,863 bushels, valued at £938. Granted normal weather conditions, it is unquestionable that not only can the Colony produce enough rice for its own very large consumption, rice being the staple article of diet of the entire population, but that it is also able to meet a steadily increasing demand from abroad. Sierra Leone rice is universally preferred to Indian rice, the imports of which were considerable in former years, when scarcity in the local article had been anticipated, and had caused the price to rise, but have now very largely shrunk. In 1908 there were imported 101 tons of rice, as compared with 348 tons in 1907, and this amount was largely made up of small quantities brought in by passengers. Practically all the rice exported from Sierra Leone is destined for ports on the West Coast of Africa.

55. In 1908 the average price per ton fetched by palm kernels in the European market was £3 below that prevailing in the previous year. So large a drop in the value of the principal article of produce of this Colony, the prosperity of whose population is so largely dependent on the prices obtainable for its domestic produce, has naturally had a far-reaching effect on its general commercial development for the year under review, and

is, in particular, to a great extent responsible for the unsatisfactory results of the import trade. The falling off in the quantity of palm kernels exported is insignificant; it is in the value of those exported that the principal decrease is to be sought.

56. In 1907 there were exported 34,942 tons of palm kernels, valued at £447,801; in 1908 the quantity exported amounted to 33,721 tons, whereas the value was only £332,887. That is to say, while the quantity exported only decreased by 3½ per cent., the drop in the value reached the high figure of 25⅔ per cent.

57. The quantity of kernels exported in 1908, remains, notwithstanding the slight decrease, the second highest in the last five years, and in advance of the average output for that period.

58. Of the total output for the year under review, 20,868 tons were exported from Freetown, and 12,853 tons from the Sherbro District. The quantity exported from Freetown is actually in excess of the amount exported thence in 1907 by 437 tons. This increase, all the more remarkable in a bad year, is further proof, if such be needed, of the effect which the extension of the tramways and roads systems, acting as feeders to the railway, are having, and will have, in developing the trade of the Protectorate. The falling-off in the exports from Sherbro is entirely responsible for the general decrease in the Colony's output. The cause of the drop in the Sherbro kernels will be suggested in dealing with the decreased exportation of palm oil.

59. Palm kernels contributed in 1908 62·83 per cent. of the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.

60. The results of the palm-oil trade are in many ways parallel to those of the kernel export. In both cases has there been a fall in the prices of the European market, in both cases has the decrease in value been greater than the decrease in the quantity exported. In both cases has the export from Freetown shown an increase on the figures of the previous year, due to roads and tramways, and in both cases consequently is the fall in the Sherbro export responsible for the general decrease. In both cases, too, have the exports for 1908 been above the average of the exports for the years 1904-1908.

61. The total export for 1908 amounted to 489,637 gallons, valued at £36,451, as against 615,997 gallons of the value of £51,154 in 1907, there being thus a decrease of 20½ per cent. in volume, and 28·7 per cent. in value. Of this quantity, 177,114 gallons were exported from Freetown, as against 157,823 in 1907, and 312,523 gallons from Sherbro, as against 458,174 gallons in the previous year. The average price ruling in the European market in 1908 was £22 per ton, in 1907 £28 per ton, and in 1906 £25 per ton.

62. That there should have been an increase both in the volume and in the value of the oil exported from Freetown in 1908, notwithstanding the fact that a drop of £6 per ton in price had to be faced, says much for the good effect which the tramways and feeder roads have had in tapping hitherto undeveloped palm-bearing areas. The Government is moreover steadily en-

couraging the output of palm oil by assisting the natives to obtain proper receptacles, such as kerosine tins, and an improved species of gourd, in which to transport it. Furthermore, by making the people of other districts acquainted with a simple and effective method of expressing oil from the fibre, which is in use among some of the natives of the Sherbro District, the Government hopes that a great saving of time and labour, and a consequent increase in output, may be anticipated.

63. An additional reason to the drop in price for the large falling off in the export of palm oil and kernels from the Sherbro District may be found in the fact that in consequence of the people having devoted themselves so largely to those articles of produce in 1906 and 1907, the farming work suffered to a considerable extent. Having already lost a certain amount of interest in palms owing to the low prices obtainable, they were all the more anxious to avoid a repetition of the shortage in the rice crop which occurred in 1907. Hence in 1908 they devoted more time to farming than to palms, and looked to other money-producing sources, such as rice and piassava, to supply them with their requirements.

64. Palm oil contributed in 1908 6·88 per cent. of the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.

65. The quantity of kola nuts exported in 1908 amounted to 1,162 tons, of the value of £108,895, being a decrease of 212 tons of the value of £4,779, on the export of the previous year, that is to say, a decrease of 15 per cent. in quantity, but of only 4 per cent. in value, the price paid locally for kola nuts having risen since 1907.

66. The drop in the quantity exported is not due to any falling off in the trade, but probably to exceptional circumstances. Practically all the kola nuts exported from this Colony go to West African ports north of Sierra Leone. Owing to the outbreak of the plague at Accra in the early part of 1908, the Senegalese authorities placed restrictions on the landing of cargo from vessels which had touched at any of the Gold Coast ports, in consequence of which shipments of kola nuts were only made by those steamers which had not touched at Gold Coast ports before reaching Sierra Leone. As the passage of such steamers was of very infrequent occurrence, shippers in many cases held back their produce.

67. There is no reason why this article should not continue to be an increasingly important form of the Colony's produce. Its cultivation does not involve much labour, and gives, on the other hand, a high percentage of profits. It has been demonstrated that the soil of Sierra Leone is in many places most congenial to its development, and that it does not thrive in Senegal, the principal consumer on the Coast, or in French Guinea. At present the trade in kola nuts is largely in the hands of native traders, and its purchasers are almost entirely natives of West Africa, who value it highly as a sustaining and nutritious article of diet. The well-known medicinal qualities of the kola nut should, however, be able to find a market for it in Europe, and this may perhaps be done when European traders begin to take a greater interest in its possibilities. Of the total export of

1,162 tons, 1,111 tons went to Bissao (Portuguese Guinea), Gambia, and Senegal, while only three tons were consigned to Europe.

68. Kola nuts continue to take the second place among the exports of the Colony, representing 20·55 per cent. of its total produce and manufactures.

69. The export of rubber for 1908 amounted to 41 tons, valued at £9,372, as against 73 tons, valued at £22,480, exported in 1907, these figures being below the average export of the last five years both in quantity and value. In 1905, 190 tons, valued at £49,132, were exported from the Colony, and formed 11·27 per cent. of the total exports of its produce and manufacture; in 1908, the percentage has sunk to 1·77 per cent. It is to be regretted that what was once a valuable trade should languish, but the local price of rubber in 1908 was driven down to such an extent by the prices obtaining in the European markets, that the natives did not find that it paid them to collect it for sale. An additional reason for the decrease in volume is to be found in the fact that much of the rubber from Koinadugu, a district which largely contributed to the rubber produce of the Colony, now no longer comes down to Freetown, but goes instead to Marmo in French Guinea, which has recently been opened up as a large trade centre, and which is only three short days from the frontier and on the Conakry Railway.

70. Forty-five tons of gum copal were exported in 1908, this being the highest figure attained during the last five years. The increase in quantity from 1907 amounts to two tons; unfortunately, however, the value shows a decrease of £1,067, or 17·73 per cent. As in the case of other products of this Colony, the lower prices obtainable in Europe are responsible for the decrease in value.

71. Thirty-one cwts. of ivory, valued at £1,091, were exported in 1908, as against 39 cwts., valued at £1,443, in 1907. The quantity is the average of the amount exported in the years 1903-1907; the value is slightly in excess of the average value.

72. The following table shows the percentage of values of the import trade to total imports, export trade to total exports, aggregate trade to total aggregate, assigned to the countries and groups of countries as therein classified, during the years 1907 and 1908:—

Countries.	Import Trade.		Export Trade.		Aggregate Trade.	
	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908	1907.	1908.
United Kingdom ...	69·16	70·16	27·48	24·05	50·12	48·25
Germany	12·58	11·45	42·39	41·36	26·21	25·66
British West African Possessions.	2·30	2·74	9·09	18·92	5·40	10·42
Foreign West African Possessions.	6·95	8·07	18·80	14·73	12·36	11·24
Other Countries ...	9·01	7·58	2·24	·94	5·91	4·43
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

73. From the above table it will be seen that as regards the aggregate trade, the United Kingdom still holds a commanding position, and what percentage it has lost since 1907 it has lost in favour of British West African Possessions, the increase in the trade with which is due to larger importation and exportation of specie. The leading place which Germany occupies in the export trade is due to the fact that by far the largest proportion of the palm kernels exported from Sierra Leone is shipped to that country.

74. Among European countries the main share of the import trade continues to fall to the United Kingdom, but its value has contracted from £683,322 in 1907 to £570,908 in 1908, a shortening of £112,414, or 16½ per cent. As regards percentage, however, there has been an increase of 1 per cent.

75. Germany takes the second place with a value of £93,166. This is a decrease of £31,342 from the value of her import trade in 1907; the percentage, too, has decreased by 1·13 per cent.

76. The imports classified as coming from the United States, a country which, but for the present system of preparing the import statistics, would in this respect rank next to the United Kingdom, amounted in value to £23,790, which is £7,759 less than in 1907. From the United States are imported flour, petroleum, lumber, and unmanufactured tobacco.

77. Holland alone shows an increase both in value and percentage, having sent articles to the value of £27,377, forming a percentage of 3·37 per cent. of the total imports, as against £20,781, or 2·1 per cent. in 1907. This increase is due to a large importation of Dutch cotton goods.

78. The following table shows the distribution of the principal products of the Colony among the countries and groups of countries to which exported:—

—	Ginger.	Kola Nuts.	Palm Kernels.	Palm Oil.	Piassava.	Rice.	Rubber.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	11,833	119	40,588	33,079	5,177	4	7,892
Germany	—	4	292,167	2,098	3,451	1	1,480
British West African Possessions.	18	44,381	—	118	—	488	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	20	64,311	132	1,156	—	6,712	—
Other Countries ...	—	80	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	11,871	108,895	332,887	36,451	8,628	7,205	9,372

79. As before, Germany continues to take the main share of the produce and manufactures of the Colony, the proportion going to that country amounting in 1908 to 57·13 per cent. In 1900, of the Colony's total produce and manufactures, the United Kingdom took 36·38 per cent., and Germany 36·33 per cent.

Now the former takes only 19·9 per cent., a drop of 16·43 per cent., while Germany's share shows a rise of 20·8 per cent. as compared with her position in 1900. Owing to the serious falling off in the prices of local products, the total value of the exports to Germany witnessed a decline in 1908 as compared with 1907, yet the volume of palm kernels (the bulk of exports to Germany) sent there in 1908 is 2,987 tons in excess of the amount sent in 1907, although the total output from the Colony was 1,221 tons less than in the previous year. As long as Hamburg continues to offer the most remunerative prices, and to possess the most scientific appliances for dealing with palm kernels, Germany will continue to absorb to an increasing extent the principal item of the produce of the Colony.

80. Notwithstanding the unfavourable condition of the import and export trade, the aggregate tonnage of the ships entering and clearing the ports of the Colony in 1908 is the largest on record. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,910, of a tonnage of 2,046,152. Compared with 1907, this is a decrease of six ships, but an increase in tonnage of 155,621.

81. The following statement gives the number and tonnage of the ships, arranged under their several nationalities, entered and cleared in 1907 and 1908:—

Nationality.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.
	No.	No.	Tons.	Tons.
British...	1,290	1,310	1,456,906	1,588,145
French...	323	284	14,132	2,291
German	152	172	170,806	196,558
Belgian	68	70	200,394	208,696
Spanish	22	26	36,762	36,850
Portuguese	40	22	728	625
Liberian	8	12	42	64
Miscellaneous... ...	13	14	10,761	12,923
Total	1,916	1,910	1,890,531	2,046,152

82. The shipping trade with the United Kingdom is in a satisfactory condition. The percentage proportion to the total tonnage for the year 1908 as regards vessels entered, amounted to 77·6 per cent. The progress of the trade between this Colony and Germany is reflected in the steady rise in German shipping. In 1904 the tonnage of German vessels entered amounted to 34,217; in 1908, to 99,263. This is an increase of 190 per cent. in five years.

83. The following table shows the total number of vessels entered and cleared for the five years 1904-1908:—

Year.	Number entered and cleared.
1904	1,334
1905	1,735
1906	1,770
1907	1,916
1908	1,910

AGRICULTURE.

84. Progress in the agricultural development of the country has been, and will continue to be, much impeded by the absence of a properly organised agricultural department. Notwithstanding this very heavy drawback, it is satisfactory to note that the efforts of the Government have succeeded in awakening interest in agriculture in the Colony as well as in the Protectorate.

85. At the experimental farms at Yamadu (Konnoh Country) and Batkanu (Karene) it has been shown that by deep hoeing and rotation of crops, rice crops can be obtained without letting the land go back into bush. Although this is not new, particular satisfaction attaches to the fact that the chiefs and people, who have been carefully watching the experiments, have now begun to copy them with good results.

86. At Kennema, the headquarters of the railway district, a nursery for rubber and cocoa has been established, the intention as regards rubber being to plant it in the forest-clad hills in the neighbourhood, and as regards cocoa, to have plantations in different parts. So far, the nursery is satisfactory, but the cultivation of rubber cannot be improved on a large scale until the time of better prices and an organised department. One of the chiefs in the Ronietta District has got a small cocoa plantation which is doing extremely well.

87. After experiments it has been ascertained that from Okra can be obtained fibre worth £20 per ton, provided that the stalk is cut at that stage representing two-thirds of its natural life. This, though involving the loss of one-third of the crop, makes it from an unworkable fibre into one of considerable value.

88. Kola plantations have been established at Mano and Moyamba, of 10 and 5 acres respectively. They have been made by the chiefs, but at the instance, and under the supervision, of the Government, thus ensuring that the great fault of native planting, namely the too close juxtaposition of the trees, which leads to the growth of a parasite, is avoided. One half of the nuts goes to the natives; the other half is hypothecated to the Government for the purpose of planting kola in the district.

89. The ginger cultivation affords another example of the difficulty of effecting improvements in agriculture in the absence of a department. It is essential to the quality of the ginger that it should be kept quite dry. Owing to carelessness, the natives used to let it get mouldy, in consequence of which it fetched in the European market only one-third of the price obtained by West Indian ginger. The Sierra Leone Farmers' Association, under the presidency of Mr. J. Abayomi Cole, one of the leading agriculturists in the country, made considerable and entirely successful efforts to improve the local ginger, but, unfortunately, just at that time the home prices fell, and the farmers got no more for their improved ginger than they had been getting for the unimproved, and were, consequently, disheartened. The Government is continuing, however, to encourage better selection of soil and improved cultivation, and is offering a grant of 10*s*. per acre for every farm worked on the improved system.

90. Several kinds of rice are grown in Sierra Leone, all good, and the Temne rice in particular being attractive both as regards size and colour. In time a considerable export trade in rice should be able to grow up with other parts of West Africa. (*See* paragraph 54.)

91. The satisfactory state of the piassava industry has been alluded to in paragraph 53. The piassava palm is particularly abundant in the Sherbro District, the people of which have paid additional attention to it in 1908, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the oil and kernel market.

92. In the Ronietta District the gum copal trade had considerably revived, owing to more careful supervision of the methods of cutting. The natives have been encouraged to make new plantations of new trees; the seedlings planted in 1907 under Government supervision are now doing well.

93. Both Liberian and Sierra Leone coffee are grown in the Colony. Both are of excellent quality, but are only grown for home consumption, the price obtainable in the European market being too low to encourage its shipment.

94. The encouragement of the cocoa-nut industry has been attempted by the Government, but so far without meeting any noticeable results.

95. Tobacco is grown in the Koranko country (Koinadugu). A small consignment of it was sent for examination to the Imperial Institute, whose report will be found in Appendix I.

96. When the Agricultural Academy, founded in accordance with the bequest of the late Mr. S. B. Thomas, is completed, a considerable stimulus to agriculture may be expected. A large tract of agricultural land has been acquired by the trustees at Mabang, in the Protectorate, where the College buildings are now in course of erection. The important educational bearing of the Academy is fully dealt with in paragraph 135.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

97. Cattle do not abound in Sierra Leone, and only in Koinadugu do they form a large source of the wealth of the district. In French Guinea, however, they are very plentiful, but a strict embargo is placed on the exportation thence of cows into Sierra Leone. Cattle are looked upon in this Colony chiefly as an outward sign of wealth, and are rarely sold, except by the people of Koinadugu, who dispose of a portion of their stock in the Mende country. The natives make neither butter nor cheese, but they sometimes drink the milk curdled. Sheep, goats, and fowls are extremely plentiful, and crossbreeding in the case of the former has had good results. Recently some English sows and turkeys have been imported into the country. Horses do not thrive.

98. Bee-keeping on English principles has recently been introduced into one of the districts, but so far without much success. The natives procure honey from the African bee.

99. In some parts of the Konnoh country and adjoining districts, iron is smelted for local use, and made into knives, cutlasses, and sticks ("country irons"). Owing to the presence of tungsten it cannot be worked commercially at a profit.

100. A small amount of crude pottery is made in some parts of the country. A sample of the clay used was submitted to the Imperial Institute, and has been found suitable for use in the manufacture of fire-bricks and tiles. An experiment in brickmaking is about to be made in Koinadugu, and pottery is also one of the subjects of experiment at the Bo School for the sons and nominees of chiefs.

101. "Country cloths," some of them of handsome design, are made in the Mende, Limba, Gallinas, and other countries, and are coloured with an indigenous indigo dye. Sometimes English thread is employed in their ornamentation. Some country cloths fetch good prices, and a small overland trade in them is done with French Guinea, cloths and kola being exchanged for cattle and rubber. The industry has now completely died out in the Temne country, where formerly a considerable number of cloths used to be made.

Note.

In connexion with the exports, it is interesting to recollect that Sierra Leone has always been a large exporting country. In the year 1866, for instance, the total exports from the Colony amounted to £237,240 9*s*. 2*d*., made up of:—

	£	s.	d.
Produce and Manufactures of the Colony ...	9,071	14	3
British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures	228,168	14	11

Among the principal items which composed that amount figure over 500,000 lbs. of ginger; ground-nuts to the value of £33,364; gum copal, £588; hides, £28,086; palm kernels, £28,586; palm oil, £26,703; rice, £1,389; rum, £8,103; timber, £14,339; and tobacco, £23,010.

The comparatively low sum at which the "produce and manufactures of the Colony" are put is, of course, owing to the fact that in 1866 there was no Protectorate; a very large portion of the £228,168 14*s*. 11*d*. of "British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce" doubtless originated from those districts over which the Protectorate was subsequently proclaimed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

102. Thirty-nine Ordinances were passed in 1908, of which only four were not connected with the Revision of the Laws or with Supply.

IV.—EDUCATION.

103. Education is carried on in the Colony and Protectorate by means of—

(*a*.) Primary Mission Schools.
(*b*.) Secondary Schools, some of which are maintained by the Missions, others by private individuals.
(*c*.) The C.M.S. Technical School.
(*d*.) Fourah Bay College.
(*e*.) Four Government Mohammedan Schools in Freetown.
(*f*.) The Government School for sons and nominees of Chiefs at Bo in the Protectorate.

The cost of the upkeep of the Primary Schools of the Colony, with the exception of the four Government Mohammedan Schools, is met from school fees, Government assistance in the form of attendance and result grants, and contributions from the various Mission Societies.

The schools of the Protectorate, excepting the Government School at Bo, are maintained solely by the Missions.

There is no compulsory education.

104. The number of the Primary and Secondary Schools in the Colony proper is 82, of which 75 are Primary, and 7 Secondary.

105. The following table shows the distribution of the Primary Schools among the denominations, together with the number of pupils attending them:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number of pupils on the Rolls.
Church of England	36	3,207
Wesleyan	20	2,519
United Methodist Free Church	9	781
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	4	331
Roman Catholic	3	648
Other Schools	3	236
		7,722

106. The number on the roll, as shown above, was 7,722, while the average attendance was 5,643. As compared with the previous year, these figures show a decrease of 71 in the roll number, but an increase of 96 in the average attendance.

107. The subjects taught in the Elementary Schools are reading, writing, and arithmetic, and in the girls' classes, sewing. There are three optional subjects, geography, grammar, and English history, but these are rarely taken up, there having been only 96 passes during the year. Moreover, they are practically only taken up by the lower Standards, and consequently but in a very elementary form.

108. 3,471 children were taught in the Standards (of which there are seven), of whom 2,824, or 81·3 per cent., were presented

for examination. Of these, 1,496 were proficient, being 43·1 per cent. of the number of those taught, and ·3 per cent. less than in the previous year.

The percentage of proficient pupils to the number of pupils examined was 52·9. This shows an improvement of ·2 per cent. over the previous year.

109. It is in the lower Standards that the better results are obtained. In the higher Standards the results cannot be considered satisfactory, but there is a reason for this in the fact that the senior pupils, owing to the inadequate staff of teachers, spend all their school hours in teaching, and only have a little while immediately before inspection in which to get up their own work.

110. The total income of the schools from all sources amounted to £5,143 13*s*. 8*d*., as compared with £5,083 18*s*. 8*d*. in the previous year. The total expenditure was £4,861 8*s*. 4*d*.

Toward the income, the Government provided, in the shape of grants-in-aid, the sum of £1,499 16*s*. 1½*d*., or a fraction over two-sevenths. The school fees amounted to £1,032 9*s*. 8*d*., or not quite one-fifth, the remainder being contributed either directly by the different denominations, or by voluntary subscriptions from their members.

111. It should be mentioned that the figures given with regard to elementary education refer to the condition of affairs at the beginning of 1908, complete returns for 1908 not being available.

112. The system of education as actually in force in the Colony has for some years remained unchanged, but it has been felt for some time that certain alterations are necessary in order to remedy the shortcomings which have grown up since it came into being.

With regard to the rural schools, each of the several religious bodies at work in a village possess their own church and their own school, the catechist and the schoolmaster being the same individual. As the villages are small, it is a question whether one school would not be sufficient to meet the needs of the population, not only of the village itself, but in some cases also of one or two adjoining villages.

Both in urban and rural schools, the smallness of the salaries which the managers are able to pay the teachers acts as a deterrent to many to take up the teaching profession, and of those who do, there are few who will refuse an opportunity of accepting employment in other directions.

These and other defects led the Government to provide in the Estimates for the visit of an educational expert, and his recommendations may be expected to result, by the reorganisation of the Department of Education, in putting the educational system of the Colony on a more economical and efficient basis.

113. As in the case of the Primary Schools, the Secondary Schools belong principally to religious denominations.

114. The total number of pupils educated in these schools amounts to about a thousand.

The results obtained at the schools are good, and from them are largely drawn clerks in the Government Service and in the mercantile establishments. A number of Sierra Leoneans occupy similar positions in the other West African Colonies, particularly in Northern Nigeria, and of them, many have been educated at these schools.

115. Fourah Bay College is at present the only institution in British West Africa in which a University Education can be obtained. The College is supported by, and is under the control of, the Church Missionary Society, having been originally intended for the training of native ministers. It is affiliated to the University of Durham, and its students can proceed to the degrees of B.A., M.A., and L.Th. The Visitor of the College is the Bishop of Sierra Leone.

116. The number of students at the College during 1908 was 10, of whom 6 were resident, and 4 non-resident. Five degrees and licences were conferred, viz., 1 M.A., 1 B.A., and 3 L.Th.

Thirteen candidates presented themselves for the entrance examination, held at the end of the year, and 11 of these were successful.

117. The future of Fourah Bay College is at present very uncertain. In the year under review the Church Missionary Society decided, for various reasons, to discontinue their support, a circumstance which would entail the closing down of the College, unless others were prepared to come to an arrangement with the Society for the purpose of carrying it on. The Society has now consented to take no action until 1911, up to which date it will continue to support it as before. If, however, by the end of that period, no further arrangements have been made, it seems probable that the long and honourable career of the College will come to an end.

118. The Diocesan Technical School is conducted under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, for the purpose of giving, as its name implies, instruction of a purely technical character. It trains young men in carpentry, building construction, surveying, &c., the instruction being partly theoretical, partly practical.

The school has succeeded in turning out some highly skilled native workmen, who are successfully filling good positions in the Government and Municipal Services, and its value is shown in the fact that the Railway, Public Works, Roads, Waterworks, and other Departments have been able to find among its pupils men who have been able to fulfil their requirements.

119. The average number of pupils on the roll for the year has been 29, showing an increase of 2½ per cent. on 1907. Of the nine students who completed their studies in 1908, one obtained by competition the post of Assistant to the Superintendent of the Freetown Waterworks, three have entered the Government Railway, two have been employed on the pier works, and one has obtained an appointment in the Nigerian Public Works Department.

The school is in receipt of an annual Government grant of £120.

120. There are four Mohammedan Schools or " Madrasas " in Freetown for the education of the children of the Mohammedan section of the community, also those of any Mohammedans in the Protectorate who care to send them.

The cost of the upkeep of the schools is entirely defrayed by the Government, and no school fees are charged.

121. The number of pupils on the roll in 1908 was 575, and the average attendance 483. In 1907 the figures were 596 and 454 respectively, from which it will be seen that although there has been a decrease in the number on the roll the average attendance has improved.

122. The subjects taught at the schools are the ordinary school subjects, but in addition to these Arabic is taught daily between the hours of 7 and 9 a.m.

The education given has been successful in spreading increased knowledge and intelligence among the Mohammedan youths, and has not only taught them something of Western ideas but has enabled them to acquire a more intelligent understanding of the tenets of their faith, and to lose the prejudices which formerly existed among some of the Mohammedans against the study of " English book." The teaching of Arabic is conducted on modern methods, and there could be no better object lesson for the boys of the advantages of good education than the comparison of these methods with the slow and antiquated system of teaching Arabic formerly in force, and still obtaining among the itinerant teachers in the Protectorate and throughout the Western Soudan.

123. As there are no Mohammedan teachers capable of instructing the children in these schools, Christian teachers are employed. With the object, however, of entering the teaching profession and eventually becoming masters in these schools, twelve of the most promising Mohammedan youths are being trained in the office of the Secretary to the Board of Mohammedan Education, and their progress is favourably reported on. The appointment of Mohammedan masters will undoubtedly have the effect of increasing the attendance at these schools.

124. The Mohammedan population of Freetown is considerable, although a certain section of it is of a transitory nature. Its permanent number may be roughly estimated at 10,000. One result of these schools has been that some of the clerkships in Government and mercantile offices, which formerly were a monopoly of the Sierra Leoneans, are now being held, although still in very small numbers, by members of the Mohammedan section of the residents in Freetown.

125. The school for the sons and nominees of chiefs at Bo was opened in 1906, having been established by the Government for the object of training those boys who will in after years become either chiefs or men of importance in their own countries, not in an alien system of thought and education, but in such a manner

as to fit them to fulfil in the most useful ways the responsibilities which will some day be theirs. The full value of the school will therefore only be gauged when that time arrives; in the meanwhile, it is not possible to say more than that the school is well fulfilling every expectation.

126. The school opened in March, 1906 with 18 pupils. At the end of 1908 there were 102, representing the Mende, Temne, Konnoh, Susu, Limba, Sherbro, and other tribes.

127. The system of instruction is naturally very different from that of the Colony schools.

It is based, not on the A B C, but on nature study and observation lessons, and aims at cultivating the intelligence of the boys before attempting to burden the memory. The boys are taught to speak pure English, and not the pigeon-English which is spoken in the Colony. The subjects of instruction are chemistry, plant-life, agriculture, hygiene, physiology, geography, arithmetic, and Arabic. Reading is taught as soon as the boys know enough English to understand what they are reading. No religious instruction is given, and no attempt is made to interfere with the boys' religious observances and beliefs.

128. The staff now consists of a Principal (European) and three European assistant masters, together with a number of native pupil teachers, and a native woman of good family selected to act as matron.

129. The school had, in its initial stages, many difficulties to overcome. The lack of suitable native teachers knowing both the boys' languages and English was one, and another was a fear on the part of some of the Mohammedan Chiefs that, in all good faith, the prejudices of the Moslem pupils might inadvertently be offended against. A question did, in fact, arise with regard to the boys being shown pictures of living objects, and after being referred through the medium of the Colonial Office to the Moslem authorities in Constantinople, Cairo, and India, was satisfactorily settled by the Mohammedan Board of Advice, a body consisting of the leading Mohammedans of Sierra Leone, which was appointed in order to reassure the Moslem Chiefs that no attempts were being made to tamper with the religious beliefs of their sons. This result has been fully attained, and the Mohammedan Chiefs are now most willing to entrust their sons to the school. The Board pays periodical visits to the school, each of the visits being about a week in duration, and eagerly looked forward to by the boys. It paid three visits in 1908, and was particularly impressed by the new Technical branch which was opened in October of that year. Not only as coming from Mohammedans, but also from good types of enlightened natives, the views of the members of the Board with regard to the school are of peculiar interest.

130. The results of the Technical Department have, even in the short period of its existence, been very apparent. Some of the pupils the most backward in other subjects, are the brightest in the Technical Department, showing interest and skill in

drawing, clay modelling, and woodwork. Their success in this part of their work has aroused latent ability and energy in other directions, and, as far as can at present be seen, manual training promises to be of great benefit throughout the school. The discovery of fire-clay in 1907 has also led to the formation of a pottery section, and much useful work has already been done in the erection of a kiln, and in obtaining and examining specimens of clay from various towns. It is hoped that towards the end of 1909 actual results may be apparent.

131. The teaching of hygiene and physiology, and the insistence upon cleanliness in the persons and the clothing of the boys have resulted in their enjoying general excellent health. No serious case of illness occurred during the year, and the boys themselves attribute their freedom from sickness to this cause. Sick pupils are tended by the matron, but other boys often volunteer to nurse them in the night, and such attentions, together with constant intercourse, do much to bring boys of different tribes together, and may have valuable results when the boys grow up.

132. The boys do not leave the school for holidays, but remain there continuously until they return to their homes for good. On the other hand, Chiefs often visit the school, to the satisfaction of the Government as well as of the boys, and have expressed their pleasure and surprise at what they have seen. Boys are encouraged to write letters home, and constantly do so, and it is not uninteresting to observe, in their frequent requests for pocket money, country cloths, and other delicacies from home, a strong similarity to the habits of the schoolboys of their own years in England.

133. The best conditions of native life are strictly adhered to as regards the boys' dwellings and surroundings. They live in their own village, in native houses, each of which contains five boys, one of whom is chosen "headman." Each house has a small flower and kitchen garden, which takes up much of the boys' spare time; the households are well regulated, and the work done is apportioned with great care by the "headman" in consultation with his "men." Most of the households show great method in their division of labour, and the inmates are swift to resent and punish laziness and neglect, and careful in seeing that cleanliness is maintained. The boys are fond of games, especially ball-games and pole-jumping, and make constant use of the two swimming pools which have been constructed for them near their village.

Each household is also provided with a small allotment of tools, such as hoes, cutlasses, and spades. A bank has lately been opened by the Principal, and during the year deposits to the amount of nearly £25 were made by the boys. The withdrawals were about £20.

134. The Government expends annually on the school the sum of £3,000. In addition, the parents pay an annual fee of £10 for each pupil, and it is no uncommon thing for a Chief to send two, and even three, boys to the school.

135. The Agricultural College at Mabang in the Ronietta District, for the establishment of which the late Mr. S. B. Thomas bequeathed the sum of £60,000, is not only the first instance on the West Coast of a native leaving a large sum of money for public purposes, but is also likely to affect very materially education in Sierra Leone.

In the working of the College the Government proposes to co-operate. The Director of Agriculture will occupy a professional chair, and the Government will give three scholarships of £50 per annum, tenable for three years after leaving the College, which will be awarded on the recommendation of the Professor. The will provides that the trust shall be administered in the main by those natives who realise that the future of Sierra Leone lies in successful agriculture, but the testator's desire that the Government should co-operate in his scheme is evidenced by the fact that the Chief Justice and the Local Auditor were designated, subject to their consent, to act as members of the Board of Management.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

136. During the year 22,579 cases were treated at the Colonial Hospital, which is an increase of 3,372 on the number treated in the previous year. Of these, 980 were in-patients, and 21,599 out-patients; 407 Europeans, and 22,172 natives.

137. Of the 980 in-patients, of whom, owing to the fact that during portions of the year three of the largest wards were under repair, there were 101 less than in 1907, 128 died. This is an increase of 34 over the number of last year, but it must be taken into consideration that of these, 28 died within 12 hours, and 21 within 24 hours, of admission. The actual number of deaths among patients who had the advantage of continued treatment is practically the same as in 1907.

The increase in the total number of deaths includes the followcases:—

Tuberculosis	increase of	2	deaths
Respiratory diseases ...	,,	11	,,
Digestive ,, ...	,,	6	,,
Parturition	,,	6	,,

The increase under the latter head is accounted for by the fact that the natives still adhere very much to their own customs with regard to midwifery, and will often only send patients to the hospital when in a state of collapse.

138. 135 operations requiring the use of anæsthetics were performed during the year, which also saw the establishment of a separate consulting room for Government officers, and the inauguration of a Clinical laboratory, in which misroscopic investigations have already been carried out in 300 cases.

139. The Nursing Home is an institution situated in the centre of the town, and is solely intended for the treatment of Europeans.

140. Forty-two cases were admitted during the year, as against 66 in 1907. There were 3 deaths, or 1 less than in the previous year, the causes being simple continued fever, tubercular pneumonia, and cirrhosis of the liver.

141. The patients were derived from the following classes of the community:—

Government employees—	
Railway Department	8
Other Departments	4
Commercial firms	29
Shipping	1

Nearly all the Government employees admitted were those drawing salaries of under £300 per annum, two-thirds being plate-layers, drivers, and other second class railway officials. The charge for Government officials is 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem, the patient paying 2*s.* 6*d.* per diem, and the Government paying the difference.

142. The total expenditure of the Home in 1908 amounted to £810 4*s.* 5*d.*, to meet which the Government contributed the sum of £681 11*s.* 1*d.*

143. The lunatic asylum, male and female incurable hospitals, lazaretto, and small-pox hospital are situated outside the village of Kissy, in the Freetown Police District.

144. At the beginning of 1908 there were in the lunatic asylum 73 male and 40 female lunatics. Sixteen males and nine females were admitted during the year, seven patients were relieved and discharged, six patients who had been placed under observation were discharged on showing no signs of insanity; there were 11 deaths, as compared with 20 in 1907, and 40 in 1906. Taking into consideration the number of inmates, it is noteworthy that there were no epidemics, and no case of accident.

145. Of the deaths, only two were caused by beri-beri, as compared with four in 1907 and nine in 1906.

146. The work done by the lunatics consists of garden and general work by the males, and laundry and sewing work by the females.

147. At the beginning of the year the female incurable hospital had 36 patients. Forty-two were admitted during the year, and 11 died.

In the male incurable hospital there were at the beginning of the year 85 patients, and 85 more were admitted during the year. There were 50 deaths, largely owing to the admission of many old and debilitated people.

148. During the outbreak of bubonic plague on the Gold Coast, 1,062 men, 52 women, and 34 children were placed under observation at the lazaretto. No development of the disease took place.

149. No cases of small-pox were admitted to the small-pox hospital. Seventeen cases of chicken-pox were admitted, and all the patients were discharged cured.

150. In the Colonial Hospital, Bonthe, 185 patients were admitted during the year, as compared with 212 in 1907. The number of out-patients treated was 2,495.

No cases were admitted to the small-pox hospital.

151. There are hospitals and dispensaries at the headquarters of all of the districts of the Protectorate, and there are, in addition, hospitals at Bo and Daru in the Railway District.

152. There has been a slight falling off in the number and value of deposits made in the Savings Bank in 1908, the figures being 6,746 deposits of the value of £43,434 16*s*. 6*d*., as against 7,010 deposits amounting to £45,149 14*s*. 0½*d*. in 1907. The average value of each deposit in 1908 was £6 9*s*., as compared with £6 8*s*. 10*d*. in 1907.

153. The number of withdrawals in 1908 was 5,611, being 908 more than in the previous year. This is in part owing to the departure of some of the troops stationed in the Colony, between October and December, many of whom had accounts with the bank. To the same cause is also due the falling off in the deposits.

154. The system of cheques introduced in 1907 to facilitate the withdrawal of money by absentee depositors has been found to be of great utility. On the 31st December, 1908, there were 118 holders of cheque books among the depositors, and the system has recently been extended to the Bonthe branch.

155. During the year, the sum of £4,400 was invested, which sum now brings the total investments up to £81,661 12*s*. 6*d*.

The rate of interest on deposits is 2½ per cent. The interest due to depositors for the year 1908 amounts to £1,720.

The dividends received from investments for 1908 amounted to £2,683 11*s*. 9*d*., as against £2,398 9*s*. for 1907.

156. The number of Savings Banks has risen from two in 1898 to nine in the year under review, there being, in addition to the Head Office in Freetown, branch banks at Sherbro and Waterloo and in each of the district headquarters in the Protectorate.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF SIERRA LEONE.

157. The judicial system obtaining in Sierra Leone varies according to the Colony proper, the Protectorate, and the area technically Colony, but now regarded for administrative purpose as Protectorate, and subject to tribal authority (*e.g.*,

Turner's Peninsula, and Sherbro Island outside the town limits of Bonthe and York Island).

In the Colony proper, the system is very similar to that in force in England. It comprises the Supreme Court, Magistrate's Court, and Justices of the Peace, who, it may be mentioned, constantly adjudicate in aid of the Magistrate, both exercising in such cases the inferior jurisdiction analogous to that exercised by a Court of Summary Conviction and a County Court in England.

In the Colony, outside the above-mentioned jurisdictions, certain limited powers are vested in the tribal headmen of Freetown and in the headmen of the Peninsula villages. For example, the headmen of the Peninsula villages have power to fine up to £1 for breaches of the Village Regulations, and are also charged with the duty, under the Coroners Ordinance, of making inquiry into causes of death in suspicious cases. In Freetown the headmen have power to inflict small fines for breach (by a native of their tribe) of any regulations binding on the members of that tribe resident in Freetown, and also possess the right of taxing members of the tribe resident in Freetown. Up to date, this power is only exercised by the headmen of the Krus and the Foulahs. In the former case, the tax takes the form of the payment of one shilling per trip by every Kru man engaged on the ships, and the proceeds, now amounting to about £600, are devoted to matters of general welfare of the tribe, *e.g.*, education, and the improvement of buildings. The Foulahs are enabled to obtain a similar fund indirectly, by means of a regulation empowering the headman to inflict a fine not exceeding £1 on any Foulah resident in Freetown who refuses to obey his summons to a meeting of the Jama.

In the Protectorate, the mass of the judicial work is performed by the Chiefs' Courts, which have jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases between natives, with the exception of more serious forms of crime (murder, &c.). Serious crimes and all important civil cases are disposed of by the Circuit Court, while the District Commissioner's Court possesses a jurisdiction analogous to that of Summary and County Courts in England in all cases in which non-natives (*i.e.*, non-aborigines), or native and non-native, are concerned. Owing to the absence of any great number of serious cases, and also to inaccessibility, the Circuit Court usually does not visit the Districts of Karene and Koinadugu. Its jurisdiction is exercised in those districts by a special Commissioner, or by the District Commissioner of an adjoining district if certified to be qualified by the Chief Justice.

In one other respect the judicial system requires explanation: in areas formerly Colony, but now administered on Protectorate principles, the law is hybrid, because, although in the main that of the Protectorate, in certain cases it remains Colony. In these areas, the somewhat complex law is administered by the District Commissioners, and it is remarkable that although not lawyers by profession, it has rarely happened that their adjudications have given rise to any dissatisfaction.

POLICE.

158. The police are only employed in the Colony of Sierra Leone, police work in the Protectorate being performed by the Court Messengers force, of which something is said in Section IX.

159. The strength of the force at the beginning of the year was the Commissioner, one European inspector, and 245 non-commissioned officers and men. In the course of the year the force was increased by three men in order to provide for the better supervision of Bonthe.

160. In the year under review a police concentration scheme came into force, by which the police in the Colony are now concentrated in four or five strategic points, whence they will undertake systematic patrols, the results of which will be duly reported.

This scheme supersedes the former practice of scattering the police singly in small and remote Colony villages. The order and administration in rural towns and villages will be maintained by the headmen, who, under the Coroners Ordinance and other laws, are entrusted with certain powers, in the exercise of some of which they have to consult the committee of the town or village.

161. That portion of the force stationed in the Waterloo and Sherbro Districts is armed with the Snider rifle and bayonet. In Freetown the rifle is only used by the bank guard, specie and other escorts, and for drill purposes. The ammunition used is Snider buck shot.

162. Included in the strength of the force is a detective department consisting of one sergeant and four constables, who are permanently employed as detectives, the assistance of constables in plain clothes being always given when necessary.

163. The harbour police, consisting of 11 men thus permanently employed, under the charge of a sergeant and two constables from the shore police, are occupied in keeping order among the licensed boatmen in the harbour, and in seeing that the harbour regulations are enforced. They patrol all the bays in the vicinity of the harbour to protect floating property, and search any boat suspected of smuggling, or of containing stolen goods.

The sergeant in charge is also responsible for an effective watch being kept on outward-bound steamers.

164. The cost of the force for the year amounted to £8,631 0*s*. 5*d*., as compared with £8,598 11*s*. 11*d*. in 1907.

165. The number of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony during the year was 970 males and 41 females, against 810 males and 22 females committed in 1907. The daily average number of prisoners was 244, as compared with 230 in 1907.

166. The health of the prisoners has been on the whole good; there has been a complete absence of epidemics.

The amount earned by the prisoners from the work done by them in prison amounted in 1908 to £2,496 2*s*. 6*d*.

167. At the headquarters of every district of the Protectorate there is a prison, which is under the control of the District Commissioner.

169. By the Protectorate Native Law Ordinance of 1905, Chiefs are given the power to commit natives to the district gaol, on condition that the application by the Chief to the District Commissioner for the harbouring of his prisoner constitutes an automatic appeal, and gives the District Commissioner the right, if he sees fit, to reduce the sentence. The possession of this privilege by the Chiefs is of great value, and highly appreciated by them. In former days a Chief could generally, when necessary, bring pressure to bear on the family of a wrong-doer, but in recent years many natives have left their own chiefdoms and families to work in other parts of the country, especially in the chiefdoms adjoining the railway. In such cases, the Chief would have very little power over the men, and but inadequate means of punishment, but for the power to commit them to gaol should serious offences have been committed by them.

170. There has been a decrease in crime in the Colony and Protectorate in 1908 as compared with 1907. The total number of offences reported in 1907 was 2,224, of which 560 were offences against the person. In 1908, 2,132 offences were reported, 488 of which were offences against the person.

Of the total number of 2,132 offences, 1,721 were reported in the Colony, and 411 in the Protectorate.

171. The number of summary convictions was 1,382, as compared with 1,501 in 1907. Of these, 1,054 were in the Colony, 328 in the Protectorate.

172. The number of indictable offences tried in the Superior Courts of the Colony and Protectorate in 1908 amounted to 148, a decrease of 31 from the figures of the previous year.

173 The following table shows the number of cases tried, the nature of the offences, and how the cases were disposed of:—

Nature of Indictment.	Number tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Fell through
Murder other than wife and child murder ...	41	23	13	5
Manslaughter	2	2	—	—
Attempted murder	1	1	—	—
Rape	3	3	—	—
Other offences against the person	20	17	3	—
Malicious injuries to property, including arson	3	3	—	—
Robbery with violence	2	2	—	—
Larceny	60	48	3	9
Other offences against property	3	2	1	—
Miscellaneous offences	13	12	—	1
Total	148	113	20	15

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

174. The inhabitants of Sierra Leone fall into two very distinct classes, viz., " Natives " and " Sierra Leoneans." The former are the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, and consist of the tribes mentioned in paragraph 221. They inhabit the Protectorate and the Sherbro portion of the Colony proper, and a large number of them also reside in Freetown for purposes of trade. The term " Sierra Leonean," on the other hand, is exclusively applied to the descendants of those people the desire to find a home for whom in Africa originally led to the settlement of Sierra Leone. These people consisted in the first instance of a number of negro slaves who, after it had been decided by the English Courts that anyone on British soil, no matter what his colour, was free in the eyes of the law, had come to England from America to obtain their freedom, and who, especially after the American war, flocked to London in such numbers, and reached, owing to their inability to make their living when independent, so great a state of destitution, that a number of philanthropists determined to settle them in Africa in a region which they believed to be approximately that of their original homes. These " Original Settlers " were reinforced in 1792 by the " Nova Scotians," negroes from the southern States of the United States who had served in the Royal Army during the War of Independence, and who, in reward for their services, had been settled upon lands in Nova Scotia, the climate of which, however, they found uncongenial. In 1800 they were joined by 500 Maroons (slaves from Jamaica), and in 1819 by 85 slaves from Barbados, and 1,200 disbanded soldiers and pensioners belonging to the African Corps and the West India Regiment. By far the largest section, however, of what may be termed the imported population consisted of " Liberated Africans," that is to say, Africans rescued from captured slave-ships, and settled in and about Freetown, and it is principally from this source that the present Sierra Leonean community is descended. The Sierra Leoneans live in Freetown and in the villages of the Sierra Leone peninsula, but very rarely enter the Protectorate, and then never in bodies, but only as individual traders. They speak a patois of English, and any African language is to them as foreign a tongue as is English to the natives.

175. Accurate vital statistics can only be obtained by compulsory registration, which is now limited to Freetown and Bonthe. Even thus, such data as are obtained are probably fallacious. For example, a considerable section of the population of Freetown is of a transitory kind; Mende carriers, Foulah and Mandingo traders, merchants from French Guinea, to give only a few instances, are continually coming and going. Again, there are many Sierra Leoneans living down the Coast as clerks and traders, who generally return to Freetown in their old age. Their deaths naturally affect the death-rate, whereas the birth-rate is unaffected by such children as may be born to them in Lagos, Accra, or wherever else they have spent the greater portion of their lives.

176. As stated in paragraph 2, the population of the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at 1,250,000, and that of the peninsula of Sierra Leone at 76,773. Of the latter figure, the city of Freetown accounts, according to the estimate, for 37,682; the number of persons in Freetown at any given time, however, is probably seldom under 40,000.

The total number of births registered in Freetown in 1908 was 635, and of deaths 848, as compared with 583 and 816 respectively in 1907. This gives a rise of one per thousand in the birth-rate from the previous year, and also the same rise in the death-rate, the birth-rate in the year under review being 16 per thousand, and the death-rate 22 per thousand. The death-rate in 1907 was, however, the lowest since 1901.

In 1901, the date of the last census, the total population of the Colony proper, including the Sherbro portion, was given as 76,655. Of this number 41,856 were males, 34,799 females.

177. The Births and Deaths Registration, Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance of 1906 provided for the establishment, when desired, of registration districts for the purposes of voluntary registration. Up to the end of 1908, 14 such districts had been established.

178. The diseases responsible for the largest number of deaths in Freetown were:—

	1908.	1907.
Respiratory system	184	161
Malarial fevers	150	202
Debility	98	—
Nervous system	95	58
Digestive system	87	95
Circulatory system	45	42

It will be noticed that the number of deaths caused by malarial fevers has been greatly reduced. This is no doubt due to the increasing importance which is being attached to anti-malarial sanitation. Owing to the good water supply which Freetown enjoys, diseases of the digestive system also continue to decrease in number. On the other hand, owing to the susceptibility of the Sierra Leonean to chills, the rate of deaths resulting from diseases of the respiratory system continues a high one.

179. Of the total of 848 deaths, 222 were those of children under one year of age, showing a death-rate of 351 per thousand among infants. The infantile death-rate per thousand in the last five years is as follows:—

Year.	
1904	398
1905	461
1906	434
1907	357
1908	351

This rate, although decreasing, is undoubtedly high, and is due to several causes, malaria being one. Another is ignorance as to the proper feeding, care, and cleanliness of the children in the first few months of their existence, and the unscientific midwifery of the middle and lower classes is also an important factor.

The maternity ward of the Colonial Hospital has still to overcome the prejudices of the people, who are reluctant to discontinue the employment of native midwives, whose methods of treatment are often a compound of ignorance and superstition. It is, however, doing much by training native women and girls to be nurses and midwives, and will thus in time inspire more confidence and increase its sphere of usefulness.

180. There was no epidemic of small-pox in Freetown during the year, and but few cases in the Protectorate. Lymph is now supplied in fortnightly consignments from Liverpool, and has given very satisfactory results. Vaccination is being carried out extensively in the Colony and Protectorate, the total successful vaccinations for the year from available returns being:—Colony, 3,294; Protectorate, 1,023; total, 4,317.

A census was recently obtained from the principals of some of the Schools in Freetown, which showed that out of 854 pupils, 90 per cent. had been vaccinated.

181. It is impossible to estimate with accuracy the number of Europeans resident in the Colony during any year, as that number is continually varying. It is calculated that in 1908 there were 550 Europeans in the Colony, consisting of officials, officers and men of the garrison, missionaries, and merchants. The total number of deaths, including one case landed from a steamer, was 13, the same number as in 1907. Of these, two were officials, and five military. The number of deaths from climatic causes was four.

182. The total number of European officials who resided in the Colony and Protectorate during any portion of the year was 160. The percentage of working days (Sundays included) lost to the service by officials being on the sick-list was only 1·04 per cent. Nearly half the number of days on the sick-list were so spent by 15 second class railway officials.

183. The good points of the official cantonment at the Hill Station continue to be maintained.

184. The health of the Europeans at Bonthe, which is situated on a mud-bank, has on the whole been satisfactory. Of the six European officials who have been stationed there at various times during the year, none have been on the sick-list. Among the other Europeans resident there, numbering from 25 to 30, there was one death, due to pneumonia.

185. With a view to arriving at some estimate of the prevalence of ankylostomiasis in Freetown, experiments were carried out at the clinical laboratory of the Colonial Hospital. Of 100 specimens of fæces examined, 54 contained ankylostome ova, but in no instance was there observed any symptom directly attributable to the infection, or any skin eruptions such as have been described as due to ankylostomiasis.

186. Anti-malarial sanitation forms a very important part of the general sanitary work in Freetown, and was attended to regularly during the year.

187. The amount spent on repairs to streets and reconstruction of drains was £2,607 14*s*. 10*d*. The Public Works Department carried out the following works:—

1,600 feet of new drains and concrete gutters.
4,360 feet of non-masonry drains.
164 culverts repaired and cleared.
Repairs to the canals in the water-courses.

188. A large masonry rubbish incinerator was also erected during the year by the Government, and six more have since been built in suitable sites throughout the town.

189. Special precautions were taken to prevent washer-women and others blocking up the natural water courses in order to form collections of water in which to wash.

190. As far as possible, all old tins, bottles, and similar refuse likely to act as breeding places for mosquitoes were removed from all premises, high weeds and grass were kept down, and all other forms of rubbish likely to attract and harbour insects constantly removed.

At the end of October the Municipal Council took over the work of scavenging into its own hands, instead of having it done by contract, a method which was not found to be satisfactory. The Council is providing mules and oxen for the removal of refuse.

As compared with other tropical and sub-tropical towns, Freetown is remarkable for its comparative freedom from the common house fly.

191. Progress was made with the new sanitary station for plague and yellow fever. A hospital, dispenser's house, European isolation barri, disinfecting chamber, police guard-house, &c., have been built, and a Clayton disinfecting machine obtained. Some work in rat-destruction was undertaken during the outbreak of plague on the Gold Coast.

192. Hygiene is now taught in all the secondary schools in Freetown, and for the encouragement of the study of this subject the Government voted a sum of £180 for distribution as prizes to the schools and scholars. At the examination held in December of the year under review, 66 candidates competed, of whom 3 obtained over 90 per cent. of full marks, 16 over 80 per cent., 18 over 70 per cent., and 13 over 60 per cent.

193. Professor W. J. Simpson, C.M.G., visited Sierra Leone from 4th October to 2nd November to enquire into questions connected with sanitation and the West African Medical Staff.

194. The sanitation of Bonthe is supervised by the Sherbro Municipal Board. Concrete surface drains are being fixed in the sides of the streets. A much-needed public slaughter-house has also been constructed.

195. Sanitation in the Protectorate is making some headway; instructions have been issued by the Government as to the best means of promoting it, and many of the chiefs are taking an intelligent interest in it, and are realising its importance. Every year the Government awards prizes to the chiefs of the two towns

in each district which have shown the greatest improvement in sanitation. These prizes take a highly appreciated form, that of handsome presentation swords, and the desire to possess them acts as a great stimulus on those chiefs who have not yet earned the reward.

Lest any chief should consider that by winning a sword he had done all that was necessary, and could allow his town to relapse into an insanitary condition, it is stipulated that the sword is given not only for improving the sanitation of a town, but also for keeping that town in a good sanitary condition.

196. The climate of Sierra Leone is unhealthy, and not suitable for Europeans, although those Europeans now residing in the Colony live under very much improved conditions to those formerly obtaining. A more careful mode of living, the precautions taken against the mosquito, and, as regards the officials, the conditions of leave under which they serve, have done much to mitigate the dangers of the climate. It may be mentioned, as a point of interest, that one of the highest pensions on the Colony's pension list for 1908 was paid to an official who retired from the service of the Colony, and began to draw that pension, as far back as 1867.

197. Generally speaking, the climate of the Protectorate is healthier than that of the low-lying districts along the coast. This is especially the case in the hilly country which forms a large portion of the Koinadugu District and of the Konnoh Section of the Railway District.

198. The seasons are divided into the wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The commencement and close of the rainy season are marked by the occurrence of tornadoes or violent thunderstorms, which, however, do little damage. There were 91 thunderstorms registered in Freetown during 1908, the average for the years 1904-1908 being 120·28.

Between the months of December and March the wind known as the harmattan is prevalent. This wind is a very dry easterly breeze, bringing with it a fine dust said to come from the Sahara.

199. The rainfall in Freetown during 1908 amounted to 142·89 inches, which is 22·7 inches less than the average for the last five years. The heaviest rainfall for any one day occurred on the 14th August, and registered 8·57 inches.

Rain fell on 151 days during the year, as compared with 160 days in 1907. The following table gives the number of days on which rain fell during the different months of 1908:—

March	2
April	3
May	17
June	22
July	20
August	24
September	29
October	23
November	11

The rainfall diminishes the farther the point of reference is from the coast; in the north of the Protectorate the average annual rainfall is about 100 inches.

200. The average daily temperature is less in the middle of the rains than at any other time of the year, though the daily range of temperature is least at that time, varying by from 5 to 10 degrees, and coinciding with the maximum humidity of the air. In July and August (the months in which most rain falls) the average minimum temperature for the last five years was 71·05 and 71·19 degrees, respectively, while the average maximum temperature for those months during the same period was 84·8 and 83·75, respectively.

The highest temperatures are experienced in March and April, the average minimum during those months for the last five years being 73·88 and 74·06 degrees, and the average maximum 91·91 and 91·89, respectively.

201. The coldest day in 1908 was the 1st of June, when the thermometer registered 65·4 degrees; the highest temperature was 96 degrees, registered once in each of the months of January, February, and May.

Each of these observations was taken at 9 a.m.

202. The variations in barometrical pressure are so slight in Sierra Leone as only to be of interest to persons especially interested in the subject. The mean monthly pressure varied in 1908 between 29·594 and 29·85.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

203. The total revenue collected at the Post Office and Savings Bank Department for the year amounted to £12,529 11*s*. 10*d*., as compared with £12,304 14*s*. collected in 1907. Of this sum, £1,874 12*s*. 4*d*. was for Customs duty on parcel mails. It also includes a sum of £2,683 11*s*. 9*d*, being interest received on investments of Savings Bank monies.

The expenditure, including interest paid to Savings Bank depositors, amounted to £10,761 6*s*., as compared with £9,792 3*s*. 6*d*. in 1907.

204. The total number of postal articles and parcels handled during the year amounted to 1,293,646, as compared with 1,256,859 in 1907, and was made up as follows:—

Letters	837,464
Postcards	102,039
Newspapers and books	323,696
Parcels	30,447
Total	1,293,646

The increase is due to the purely postal articles (*i.e.*, exclusive of parcels).

Of the 1,293,646 postal articles handled, 136,892 passed through the Registration Branch, being 3,105 more than in the previous year.

205. The total amount of cash which passed directly through the department in 1908 amounted to £244,152 4*s*. 1*d*., as compared with £225,612 9*s*. 2½*d*. in 1907.

These figures show that the work of the Postal Department has increased very considerably during the year under review, and has been unaffected by the depression in trade.

206. Money orders numbering 12,130, of the value of £111,354 9*s*. 8*d*., were paid during the year. Of these, 5,034, of the value of £42,764 11*s*. 3*d*., were issued within the Colony, and 1,271, of the value of £8,526 14*s*. 8*d*., were received from beyond the limits of the Colony. Of the 1,271 orders received from abroad, 297, representing a value of £2,481 4*s*., came from the United Kingdom.

There were 3,713 orders, valued at £29,135 6*s*. 4*d*., sent to the United Kingdom, and 588, valued at £5,033 16*s*., sent to other countries.

207. There were 40,511 postal orders, of the value of £24,114 1*s*. 8*d*., dealt with during the year as against 30,686, of the value of £18,540 18*s*. 7*d*., in 1907. Orders numbering 24,936, of the value of £13,973 18*s*., were sold, as compared with 20,902, of the value of 12,345 0*s*. 3*d*., in 1907, and 15,575 orders, of the value of £10,140 3*s*. 8*d*., were paid, as compared with 9,786, of the value of £6,195 18*s*. 4*d*., in 1907.

208. The expansion in the establishment of the Post Office Department during the last 10 years has been remarkable. In 1898 there were in the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone 23 post offices, 4 money order offices, and no postal order offices. In 1908 these figures had risen to 58 post offices, 27 money order offices, and 33 postal order offices. This expansion is directly due to the development of the resources of the Protectorate by the railway, the tramways, and the feeder roads.

209. Cable communication with Europe and other parts of the world is maintained by means of the African Direct Telegraph Company's lines. The rate per word between Freetown and the United Kingdom is 3*s*. 6*d*. Messages may also be despatched over the Spanish and French Government lines viâ Conakry, Dakar, St. Louis, and Cadiz.

210. The inland telegraph service is in charge of the Railway Department. The inland telegraph consists of two lines: one extending along the railway from Freetown to Baiima, a distance of 220 miles, and the other running from Mano, on the railway, to Bendu in the Sherbro District, thus putting Freetown in telegraphic communication with Bonthe. The length of the latter line is 72 miles.

211. The rate for telegrams is the same as in England. The telegraph earnings for 1908 amounted to £1,230.

212. There are numerous War Department lines of telephones in Freetown not available for public use. With the consent of the War Department the exchange at Tower Hill Barracks is connected with Government House, the police stations, and principal Government offices.

213. The War Department is at present constructing a telephone line from Songo Town Station to Port Lokko. The length of this line, including a cable under the River Rokell, will be 37 miles, and will, when completed, connect the military telegraph line from Port Lokko to Mabanta in the Karene District with Freetown and the main system.

IX.—PROTECTORATE.

House Tax.

214. Every year the system of registration for purposes of House Tax collection becomes more satisfactory and efficient. The granting of a rebate of 5 per cent. to chiefs on the tax of their chiefdoms has had good results, and this practice, together with the recently introduced tax-card, or receipt, which is now given to each individual taxpayer to attach to the wall of his house, has done much to remove the desire to evade payment. The tax-card has also another merit, in that it tends to prevent the overcrowding in houses, for it is probable that in the case where two families inhabit one house, the man who has the card will make the man lodging with him feel his dependence to such an extent that the latter will prefer in future to return to the native custom of living in a separate house.

When the house tax was originally imposed, cases frequently occurred in which chiefs oppressed the people by exacting amounts in excess of the tax, or, in other cases, by not accounting to the Government for the whole of the amount which they had collected.

These defects have now been rendered impossible by the privilege granted to each individual taxpayer to pay his tax, if he wishes it, not through the chief, but directly to the District Commissioner in the chief's presence. This privilege has been largely taken advantage of by headmen and sub-chiefs.

215. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a steady increase in the Protectorate House Tax receipts during the last five years. The figures for the years 1904-1908 are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1904	37,503	1	0
1905	38,553	10	0
1906	40,947	5	0
1907	43,034	15	0
1908	45,297	5	0

COURT MESSENGERS.

216. The Court Messenger force was reorganised in 1907, and is rapidly becoming a very serviceable body. It is composed of picked men, nominated by the chiefs, and thus forms a valuable link between the Government and the native tribal administration. A grant of £1 per man is being made to chiefs for each year's satisfactory service done by their nominees; the peculiar value of this payment being that not only do the Government and the chiefs thus work together for the good of the district, but that also there is an additional guarantee for the good behaviour of the men in the fact that their own people derive an advantage from it.

217. At all headquarters, Court Messengers' schools have been established, the schoolmasters of which are the best educated among the men themselves. The maximum rate of pay is not granted until the men show some proficiency in reading and writing, as well as in the knowledge of their other duties, and it is hoped that the proportion of illiterates, at present considerable, will thus in time be gradually reduced.

LAND TENURE.

218. The position of the Sierra Leoneans trading in the Protectorate has now been put on a mutually satisfactory basis. The Sierra Leoneans residing in Protectorate towns occupy their lots by the consent of the local chiefs, in token of which they pay to them an annual due of £1, or, if residing in a town adjacent to an improved road, £1 10*s*. In return they are entitled to the same protection and " friendly offices " from the chiefs as these give to their own people.

219. The land in the Protectorate is regarded as belonging unreservedly and entirely to the people of the tribe, for whose benefit it is administered by the chief and his advisers. It is not granted or leased by the Government.

220. The chief, with the assent of his advisers, is empowered to grant leases of land both for trade and agricultural purposes. In the former case, where permanent buildings are erected, the arrangement by which the land is leased must be by deed, such deed stating the annual consideration to be paid to the chief, and being only valid if attested before the District Commissioner.

In the case of agricultural land, if the area does not exceed 50 acres, the consent of the District Commissioner to the lease is necessary, except where the terms of the tenure are prescribed by law; where the area exceeds 50 acres and does not exceed 5,000 acres, the consent of the Governor is required; if the area exceeds 5,000 acres, the consent of the Secretary of State must be obtained. The sole consideration affecting the consent in all cases is the benefit of the people for whom the chief and principal men act as trustees. Under no circumstances can a chief be forced to alienate land against his will, nor can a chief alienate any of the land of the tribe for his own benefit against the wishes of his people.

NATIVE TRIBES.

221. The following is a list of the principal tribes inhabiting the Protectorate, together with an approximate estimate of their

numbers. An asterisk has been placed against those which are peculiar to Sierra Leone; of the others, the Susus, Korankos, Yalunkas, and Foulahs are also found in French Guinea, the Krims and Gallinas in Liberia, and the Mandingoes in both. For works on the languages of these tribes see Appendix II. (c).

	Approximate numbers in Sierra Leone.
*Mende	420,000
*Temne	300,000
*Limba	105,000
*Sherbro	80,000
Susu	64,000
Koranko	58,000
*Konnoh	50,000
*Lokko	26,500
Yalunka	18,000
Mandingo	10,500
Krim	9,000
Foulah	9,000
Gallinas or Vei	8,500
*Bullom	5,500

222. In addition to the above tribes, a certain number of Kissis inhabit a portion of the Protectorate north of the River Moa. The raids of the Kissis living on the Liberian side of the border into the Protectorate led to the Kissi Expedition of 1905.

The Sofas, old allies of the Kissis, who originally entered Sierra Leone as warriors of Alimami Samory, and were drawn from the districts of the Upper Niger, for many years ravaged outlying portions of the Protectorate.

Their power was broken when Samory was taken by the French in 1897, and since then there have been very few Sofas in Sierra Leone. A few of their villages still remain in the Limba country, but it is now the policy of the Limba chiefs to scatter the Sofas by threes and fours in Limba towns.

SPREAD OF MOHAMMEDANISM.

223. By means of immigrant traders and Moslem missionaries coming into Sierra Leone from the districts to the north and north-west, as well as from the fact that Mohammedanism is already firmly established among a considerable section of the indigenous population, Moslem influence is gaining ground to a large extent, particularly among the Temne and other tribes to the north and west of the River Rokell. It is impossible to give a numerical estimate of the Mohammedan population of the Protectorate, especially as many of those professing Islam are but very imperfectly acquainted with the doctrines of their nominal faith.

The advent of Mohammedanism is responsible for a remarkable decrease in the amount of spirits consumed in those districts to which it has penetrated, and abstinence from liquor is readily adopted also by those nominal Moslems who know but little else of the laws of Islam.

The teaching of Arabic goes hand in hand with that of the Moslem religion, and although the system of instruction is cumbrous and antiquated, it is welcomed by the natives, who are glad to give itinerant Arabic teachers housing and subsistence in return for the instruction of their children.

GAME.

224. Many species of wild animals are found in the Protectorate, including elephant, hippopotamus, African buffalo, leopard, wart-hog, crocodile, waterbuck, cobus kob, congo, duiker, oribi, many kinds of "bush-cats," &c.

Some of these, however, are rare. Guinea-fowl and bush-fowl —the latter akin to the partridge—are plentiful.

Only two elephants or hippopotami may be shot; the elephants as a rule carry small ivory, but tusks of 100 lbs. have occasionally been obtained. The best months for shooting are from April to June.

The big game licence is £25 per annum. Officials resident in Sierra Leone and officers of the garrison pay £5.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(A.) *Railways and Tramways.*

225. The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway runs from the terminus in Freetown to Baiima, near the Liberian frontier, a distance of 220¼ miles. The number of stations on the main line is 27.

Of the tramways, one continues the main line from Baiima to Pendembu, a distance of seven miles, crossing the River Mauwa by a fine bridge. The other runs from Boia Station, 63 miles from Freetown, in a north-easterly direction to the Yonni terminus, 21 miles distant.

The same rolling stock is used on the tramways as is employed on the main line.

Another line, known as the Mountain Railway, runs from the Freetown terminus to the Hill Station, a distance of six miles, this portion of the line having formed part of the scheme for establishing the Hill Station as a residence for Government Officials.

There are also lines connecting the terminus with the Government wharf, Government quarry, and the cemetery.

The total mileage under the Railway Department, including sidings, is 265 miles. The gauge throughout is 2 ft. 6 ins.

226. The original cost of construction of the railway, including subsidiary expenditure, was £1,014,731, the cost of construction up to 31st December, 1908, being £1,020,938. The

total receipts for the year amounted to £71,500, as compared with £74,266 in 1907, and £62,158 in 1906. The earnings of the main line, including £250 in respect of quarry earnings, were £69,537, while its working expenses were £63,483. This latter sum includes £1,200 "Extraordinary Expenditure" which on other than Government railways would be charged to "Capital Account." Deducting this sum, therefore, a profit is shown of £7,254.

227. The earnings of the Mountain Railway, which was not opened primarily as a commercial enterprise, amounted to £1,965, and the expenditure to £3,844. This shows a loss of £1,879, as compared with £1,708 in 1907.

228. It will be noticed that there is a slight divergence between the figures of the railway revenue as given in the above paragraph, and those given under the section dealing with finance in paragraph 10. The explanation is that whereas the Treasury accounts confine themselves to the earnings of each particular year, the railway system of accounting includes as revenue everything received in the following year from earnings of the year preceding.

229. That the depressed conditions of trade which prevailed up to November, 1908, would have their effect on the railway revenue was natural, and the falling off of £2,766 from the revenue of the previous year would doubtless have been considerably larger but for the fact that in 1908 the two tramway lines were opened for traffic.

In November an improvement in trade set in, and in the immediately succeeding months the railway, with its existing gauge, was taxed to almost an extreme limit in handling the traffic which was offered; although every available engine was utilised, the conveyance of traffic was not effected with that speed which is desirable. The pressure of traffic is by no means evenly distributed throughout the year, but is at its heaviest from the months of December to March, and July to the end of August. The narrowness of the gauge only permits of comparatively small locomotives being employed, and again, while the weight allowed to each engine axle is five tons that on a vehicle axle is only three tons. It is evident that if the increase of the Colony's productiveness, and consequently of the work of the railway, follows a normal course, further facilities for the handling of traffic will be needed.

230. The total number of passengers carried during the year amounted to 302,077, as compared with 284,856 in 1907, being an increase of 17,221, or 6 per cent. On the other hand, the revenue derived from passenger traffic was £16,816, as against £18,655 in 1907. The increase in the volume of passenger traffic is such as is naturally to be expected; the decrease in receipts is due to the fact that, owing to the bad year, the long-distance passengers, who reside principally in the kernel-producing country in the Railway District, travelled less.

231. It may be of interest to compare the passenger traffic on the Sierra Leone Railway with that of the three principal railways

of British South Africa, the figures in all cases being those for 1907:—

Railway.	Mileage open.	Total number of passengers.	Average receipts per passenger.	
			s.	*d.*
Sierra Leone Government Railway	227	284,856	1	3·7
Central South African Railways...	2,409	7,376,834	2	11·57
Cape Government Railway ...	3,254	18,067,524	1	2¼
Natal Government Railway ...	976	3,035,100	2	9·05

232. The gross value of the goods traffic in 1908 was £50,284, as compared with £51,992 in 1907. The decrease of £1,708 is due to Government goods transport, the public goods traffic in 1908 having exceeded that in 1907 by £1,240.

233. One feature of the railway charges in vogue is that it is open to any trader to hire a wagon and load it with every description of merchandise, irrespective of classification (spirits excepted); in payment the railway receives a rate which is approximately 33 per cent. lower than the rates charged for the conveyance of merchandise which is conveyed at the cheapest ordinary rate. In return for this exceptional privilege, the trader paying the haulage rate or toll undertakes to load and unload the wagon and also agrees that the railway shall be exempt from all liability for loss during transit, no matter what the cause. This system was introduced in order that the cost and complications connected with working the railway might be reduced to a minimum, and also to enable the smaller traders to have their quarterly or half-yearly stock conveyed at a minimum rate, and thereby compete with the larger firms. There are indications that the system, always unpopular with the railway authorities on account of the cheapness of the charge, is regarded with equal disfavour by the larger firms and small traders alike. Under the system, about 50 per cent. of the merchandise, and a much larger proportion of the produce or downward traffic, has been carried, and undoubtedly its adoption has enabled the railway to deal with a constantly increasing volume of traffic without a corresponding increase in the cost of administration.

234. As stated above, the Boia-Yonni and Baiima-Pendembu tramways were opened for traffic during the year. The object of the Yonni tramway is to bridge the traffic-barren country of about 20 miles in width which lies between the main line and the rich palm-bearing districts of the Yonni country. The last mile of the tramway is already within the palm country, and from the terminus roads are in course of construction which will radiate from there into the several remarkably rich belts by which it is surrounded on all sides except on that of the main line. A large and rich region will thus be tapped which would otherwise have remained outside the reach of the railway, and owing to the fact that a number of palm belts converge at the Yonni terminus, a

big market may be expected to grow up there as soon as the traders establish there in sufficient numbers to supply the natives with goods in exchange for their produce. Traders are now beginning to discover that there is in some parts of the country, especially in those inhabited by the Temnes, of whom the Yonnis are a section, a market for goods of a superior quality to the cheap and somewhat inferior goods which it was formerly believed entirely satisfied the natives' requirements. The wealthier natives now demand something better than the ordinary trade cloths, and are fully prepared to pay for them. This is a fact which should be borne in mind by those desiring to establish at a new trade centre.

The Baiima-Pendembu tramway, in crossing the River Mauwa, makes a trade accessible to the railway which the difficulty of crossing the river had formerly held back. This trade comes principally from the Bambara, Mende, and Konnoh Sections on the eastern limit of the Railway District, and not from across the Liberian Frontier, the commerce of which region is insignificant.

235. The quantity of rolling stock employed on the railway is as follows:—Locomotive engines, 28; coaching vehicles, 59; and goods vehicles, 204.

(B.) *Roads.*

236. There are in the Sierra Leone peninsula 163 miles of roads, connecting Freetown with the peninsula towns and villages.

237. In the Protectorate, a number of roads have been constructed by the Government since 1904 with the object of connecting palm-producing areas with the railway. That it is not sufficient for a railway to traverse a country without having roads to act as feeders is shown by the fact that traders will not establish at places isolated from the surrounding country, owing to the absence of a well-constructed road. Moreover, the provision of good roads for the natives who convey produce to the railway enables them to carry larger loads and travel at a greater pace than on bush paths, and on good roads they are also able to travel at night, a thing impossible where nothing but bush-tracks exist. During the construction of the Government roads, some of the principal chiefs were invited to send representatives to watch the road construction, with a view of employing the knowledge thus gained in their own chiefdoms. Great success has attended the experiment, and in the Railway District about 150 miles of improved roads have been made by the chiefs during the year under review without any Government supervision. Chief Lamboi of Gpa-Mende (Ronietta District) has also intersected his extensive country with serviceable roads, and other chiefdoms are following the same example. The difficulty which the natives experience in constructing these roads is how to provide permanent bridges, and it is on this point that the Government proposes to co-operate with them, the natives constructing the roads, and the Government the bridges, only providing bridges for those roads, however, which it considers to be of more than purely local value.

238. The Government roads are classified under first-class, third-class and fifth-class roads. First-class roads have permanent bridges, are cleared and grubbed for a width of 33 feet, having a roadway 12 feet wide, ballasted where necessary. The gradients do not exceed 1 in 12, and are usually not steeper than 1 in 29. The principal roads of this category are, from Bo Station to Mandu, 19 miles; Blama to Boagibu, 21 miles; Hangha to Largo, 9 miles; Segbwema road, 9 miles. The nature of the soil through which these roads are constructed is mainly laterite. In addition, the base-line of the Boia tramway is continued from the Yonni terminus to Masimera on the River Rokell, a distance of 14 miles.

The bridges in connexion with these roads (with the exception of those on the Blama road up to 10 miles), are constructed of steel girders with timber decking, supported by concrete abutments and piers. Those on the first 10 miles of the Blama road are decked with steel troughing, covered with broken stone and earth.

Third-class roads differ little from first-class roads, except in the bridges, which are of timber. Of this class is the road from Pendembu to Kanre Lahun, 14 miles. An excellent third-class road has been constructed under the supervision of one of the Court Messengers from Yonnibana to Makondu, the headquarters of the old Central District, a distance of 30 miles.

Fifth-class roads, of which there are over 200 miles, are carefully located paths, cleared and grubbed to a width of 16 feet, with native-made bridges.

239. The roads radiating from the Yonni terminus, now under construction, are, from Yonni terminus to Kitibui, 16 miles, with a steel and cement bridge over the River Yambutu (this road will probably be connected with the Yonnibana-Makondu road); and from Ronietta, 2 miles from the terminus, toward Robekki, 12 miles. The base-line from the terminus to Masimera, on the River Rokell, 14 miles, has already been alluded to.

The two first-mentioned roads were located, and are being constructed, by natives without European assistance.

240. The Government roads are under the supervision of the Maintenance branch of the Railway Department, and are reported on as being in a good state of repair.

PUBLIC WORKS.

241. Since the transfer of the Public Works Department in 1907 from its circumscribed quarters in the middle of Freetown to the site of the old Botanical Gardens on the outskirts of the town, its working capacity has been very greatly enhanced. It is now in possession of an area of about 30 acres, to which, should it ever become necessary, can be added from the adjoining Crown lands, and here are situated the store, yard, offices, workshops, sheds, and Director's bungalow, while two bungalows for foremen are also now being erected on the same area.

Running alongside this area is the new Government quarry, which is connected with the railway by a short branch line.

242. The opening of the quarry cannot but have very far-reaching results. Firstly, the Public Works Department can obtain on its very site whatever quantity of building stone it may require. Secondly, the fact that the quarry is connected with the railway enables stone to be sent without delay to any point on the line from the Hill Station to Pendembu. It is owing to the quarry that building stone is now available at half its former cost, and is consequently taking the place of wood as the material for the construction of houses. The advantage in Sierra Leone of stone houses over wooden ones is uncontested. Thirdly, it will facilitate the improvement in the sanitation of Freetown—

(*a*) by providing cheap and accessible material for the manufacture of concrete, so essential for Freetown sanitation work; and

(*b*) by enabling the Government to put at the disposal of the natives quantities of crushed stone to be used as ballast for their compounds, thus filling up mosquito-breeding pools and cavities formed by the rocky and uneven nature of the soil.

243. The stone now obtained from the quarry is mainly laterite. It is proposed, however, to lay a Decauville track to facilitate the removal of the syenite, large quantities of which are also found in the same region.

244. The barracks and quarters of the West African Frontier Force on the Moa River were completed by an expenditure in 1908 of £3,182 10*s*. 3*d*., thus bringing the final expenditure on this head up to £14,399 18*s*. 3*d*. The improved form of tropical bungalow adopted for the officers' quarters has proved most satisfactory.

245. The District Commissioners' quarters at Kennema in the Railway District were completed in 1908. These are the first stone houses to be built for District Commissioners in the Protectorate.

The new Court House and District Commissioner's office at Bonthe was also completed during the year.

In both places the new buildings are a vast improvement on the quarters previously available, and fill what has for many years been felt as a great want.

246. On the improvement of streets and drains in Freetown the sum of £1,409 14*s*. 10*d*. was spent during the year.

247. The Freetown Recreation Ground has been further improved by an expenditure of £413 11*s*. 5*d*. on constructing a tennis court, retaining wall round the bicycle track, culverts, drains, &c. £1,237 were spent on the recreation ground in 1907.

248. The two iron pile jetties constructed at the Government wharf to facilitate the loading and unloading of cargo have been completed. They are 100 feet long, 31 feet wide, and the depths at low and high water at their seaward ends are 42 and 51 feet, respectively (spring tides). Each jetty is fitted with a 4-ton steam crane for loading and discharging the lighters, and

is also supplied with mooring bollards, fenders, and ladders. Railway lines are laid down on the Government wharf, passing the heads of the jetties, and connecting with the main line; cargo can therefore be transferred from the cranes to the railway trucks with the utmost facility.

LABOUR.

249. The prices paid for labour in Sierra Leone vary largely with the class of labour, and also according as the labour is employed in the Colony or in the Protectorate. In Freetown the usual wage for labourers and carriers is 9*d*. a day, while the Krumen working on the ships are paid 1*s*. Both in the Protectorate and in the Colony, an important determining factor of the rate of wage is regularity or permanence of employment. Thus, the Sierra Leonean farmers in the peninsula are able to obtain a certain amount of labour at 10*s*., and even less, a month, but provide housing and some food; in the Protectorate, still less is paid for permanent employment. In all cases, however, one element exists, almost unknown in Europe, which materially affects the rate of wages, namely, the personality of the employer. A considerate and thoroughly trusted employer will get an ample supply of cheap and good labour in a district in which an employer of a different type will be unable to obtain a single satisfactory workman. This is common knowledge, but as illustration may be cited the experience of the Roads Department, which, owing to the special gifts of its European officers, constantly employed over 1,000 labourers at 5*d*. a day, the labourers providing their own food and sinbeks (temporary thatch huts), while applicants were turned away daily.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

250. Sierra Leone, and Freetown in particular, probably includes representatives of more races and classes than any other region of its size in Africa, and it is consequently impossible, within the limits of this report, to deal with the social condition of its people in anything but a very rudimentary manner.

The Sierra Leonean community as defined in paragraph 174 forms the bulk of the population of Freetown and the Sierra Leone peninsula, but only about 5 per cent. of the total population of the Colony and Protectorate. It is not, with the exception of a few isolated traders, established in the Protectorate. It falls into two main classes, rural and urban, the former consisting of the small farmers who inhabit the peninsula, the latter of shopkeepers and artisans, while among the more educated classes is a large number of clerks and a considerable professional community consisting of clergy, lawyers, and medical men. Among neither class of Sierra Leoneans, however, are any labourers to be found.

There does not exist among the Sierra Leoneans the same sharp definition of social grades as among the natives of the Protectorate, whose social system is founded on the existence of three very distinct classes: the aristocracy, from whom the chiefs are drawn; the independent citizens; and that large body, formerly slaves, which now occupies a position analogous to that held by serfs in Saxon and Norman England. Elaborate customs, a highly perfected etiquette, and strict social rules, control all, but it is a notable fact that the distinction between the serfs and the independent citizens has of late tended to become less. It may be added that the serf class, even in olden times, and certainly within the last 50 years, has occasionally supplied men who have acquired a large share of influence in the tribal community.

Fourteen tribes, speaking distinct languages, inhabit the Protectorate, not including those scattered representatives of tribes inhabiting adjacent territories who come into the country for purposes of trade. Social conditions naturally differ considerably with the various races and localities, there being a very great distinction between, for instance, the inhabitants of the Imperri and Timdale portions of the Sherbro country, the headquarters of the Human Leopard Society, and the home of a degraded people, and those of enlightened Mende and Temne chiefdoms. As regards the economic condition of the people, it must be remembered that the wage-earning section is comparatively small; the vast bulk of the population is exclusively occupied in agriculture. Of the wage-earning section, the Mendes are particularly pre-eminent for their working powers, and are constantly in request as carriers, not only in Sierra Leone, but also in other parts of West Africa, the late Madam Yoko, the most important Mende Paramount Chief, having supplied 2,000 men for the last Ashanti expedition. The Susus, Temnes, and some other races are less remarkable as labourers, but this is due to the fact that their respective countries have hitherto been outside main trade channels, in consequence of which they have had fewer opportunities of obtaining regular wage-earning employment.

In dealing with this subject it is impossible to refrain from allusion to a belief, much in vogue among the ill-informed, that the African is lazy. It is a belief which no one can retain who has witnessed the persevering toil on the farms, especially during an unpropitious season. The first step towards making a farm is to cut down the "bush" or coppice wood—a task necessarily involving each worker being constantly covered with ants. This discomfort is cheerfully borne, and it is a notable sight to see the "idlers" at heavy work, either under a broiling sun or, during the wet season, in tropical rain, singing their folk-songs during their labours. Again, the export of palm kernels for 1908 amounted to 33,721 tons, of the value of £332,887. These kernels are brought to market by the native, who is paid for them approximately little over ½*d*. per lb. To obtain them he has to climb the tree—in which a snake is not infrequently concealed—dry, crack, and store the nuts, and then perhaps carry them on his head for anything up to 30 miles, in hampers made by himself.

Casual observers who have seen native families travelling along the roads, the man walking ahead, and his women-folk following behind carrying such few household goods as they take with them, may be tempted to suppose that the men allow the women to do all the work. Such is not the case, and the admirable and economical division of labour between the men and the women is a remarkable feature of native life. The men do the heavy, agricultural work, road-clearing, sowing, palm-climbing, roof-building, carrying heavy loads; the women crack the nuts, extract the oil, weed, and prepare and apply the mud with which the houses are plastered, while the children are usefully employed in looking after the poultry. In the tribal community every individual has his place; none are overlooked, and pauperism is unknown. A native on being informed that in Europe men have died of starvation greets the assertion with incredulity.

It is necessary to emphasise the fact that all this refers to the native community in which the tribal system remains in force. Under this system the aged and the poor are well cared for, as are the infirm and imbecile, and in most cases those suffering from infectious diseases are isolated. The Sierra Leoneans among whom the tribal system is non-existent are unable to solve these problems. Government intervention is consequently necessary, and a sum of £450 is provided annually for the relief of the Sierra Leonean destitute, the relief thus given amounting to 5*s*. a head per quarter. It is probable that this sum will soon have to be increased.

A pleasant feature common to both natives and Sierra Leoneans is the tender care which is bestowed on young children, who are always the last to suffer should there have been a bad year, or should their families have been in any other way impoverished.

Of considerable interest are the business habits and traditions of the people. The inhabitants of the Colony proper are largely Europeanised, and have entirely adopted European business methods. In the Protectorate it is safe to say that the credit system as known in Europe is not at present understood. This is the more curious, because among the natives themselves an obligation to pay an admitted debt is rigidly observed. The anomaly is in all probability explained by the fact that a debt with a European or other non-native trader is incurred by the debtor without any of the formalities which in the tribal community are necessary before credit is given. Thus, in the native community, nothing in the nature of credit is allowed to a person unless his or her family is notified, and their consent obtained. Assuming that this inference is correct, it indicates the limits within which it may be advisable that trade credit should be confined.

251. The mistake is often made by those unacquainted with West Africa of supposing that it is inhabited by people homogeneous in race, language, customs, and aspirations. Freetown, owing to its geographical position, its harbour, and its reputation as a trade centre, offers a striking contradiction to this idea. Nothing there is homogeneous. It is a city not only of mixed races, but of many types of civilisation, containing as it does Europeans of many nationalities, Sierra Leoneans, East Indians, West Indians, Syrians, North African Arabs, and representatives not only of all the Protectorate tribes, but of many of those dwelling

from the Sahara to the Congo. It is said that in Freetown fifty African languages are spoken. In the Government of this mixed multitude the tribal headmen play an important part. The headmen of the Krus and the Foulahs have already been alluded to, and in addition to these, the Mendes, Temnes, and Limbas who dwell in Freetown, and who are in consequence temporarily deprived of the benefits of their tribal organisations, have been authorised by the Government to elect headmen, to whom they bring their disputes, and who are recognised by the Government as their spokesmen and representatives.

252. Allusion to the Kru Colony in Freetown is particularly appropriate in the report for the year 1908. The home of the Krus is that stretch of the coast which lies between Grand Bassa and Grand Lahou, but being a sea-going people they were at an early period attracted by the shipping trade to Freetown. The year under review is the hundredth anniversary of their official recognition by the Sierra Leone Government, for it was in 1808 that Mr.—afterwards General—Thompson, Governor of Sierra Leone, granted to them the special reservation in Freetown which they still inhabit. It is an interesting fact that although Krumen are found on the ships all along the coast, Freetown is the only place outside their own country to which they bring their families and where they make any attempt at permanent occupation. This is due, no doubt, to the incentive to settle here given to them by Governor Thompson, who in the same year offered a premium of five guineas to each of the six Krumen who "should first introduce their wives and families into the Colony, and live with them in one or more distinct houses to each family, and cultivate a quantity of ground not less than two acres, for the space of two years."

E. Evelyn,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
15th July, 1909.

APPENDIX I.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1908 FOR THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

Scientific and Technical Department.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of Sierra Leone on the following subjects on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed, when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

Rubber.

Ten specimens of *Funtumia*, *Landolphia* and *Ficus* rubbers were reported on in 1908. The *Funtumia* rubber was of good quality, containing 87 per cent. of caoutchouc in the dry material, and was valued at 3*s.* per lb., with fine hard Para at 3*s.* 5½*d.* per lb. The same price was quoted for a specimen of well-prepared *Landolphia* rubber, which contained nearly 90 per cent. of caoutchouc in the dry material.

The *Ficus* rubber was of very resinous nature and therefore of low value; it would probably not realise more than 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. in this country, with fine hard Para at 3*s.* 5½*d.* per lb.

Fibres.

A specimen of pineapple fibre, though not so well cleaned as samples previously received at the Imperial Institute from other sources, was of good length and would be nominally worth from £25 to £30 per ton in London.

Further specimens of Okra and Napunti fibres were found to compare favourably with those previously reported on. From the results of the investigation at the Imperial Institute of different samples of Okra fibre, it would appear that the product prepared from the plants after the second crop of fruits has been picked is superior to that obtained after the first and third crops have been picked.

A specimen of Sansevieria fibre waste was valued at £10 to £12 per ton.

Oil Seeds and Oils.

The trial consignment of the seeds of *Lophira alata* asked for in 1907 was duly received, and submitted to a firm of soap manufacturers in order that the oil might be expressed on a small commercial scale and tried for soap-making. The firm reported that they obtained from the decorticated seeds 43 per cent. of oil, which for their purposes would be worth, under ordinary market conditions, from £1 to £2 per ton more than cotton-seed oil, *i.e.*, from £24 to £25 per ton at the date of the report.

A small sample of the *Lophira alata* kernels was also submitted to a firm of oil-seed crushers, who confirmed the above valuation and stated that they would be prepared to purchase a small consignment of five tons of the kernels at the rate of £10 per ton, c.i.f. Liverpool. This offer was duly communicated to the Government of the Colony.

The seeds of *Carapa procera* were examined, and the oil obtained therefrom was valued at about £20 10*s.* per ton. The kernels of these seeds are rich in oil suitable for industrial use, and would probably find a ready sale in Europe at about £9 per ton, if in good condition. It would not be possible to sell the entire seeds readily in Europe, as the cost of decortication would be too high.

The examination of a specimen of *Pentadesma butyracea* fat indicated that the product, if available in large quantities, would probably be saleable in Europe for edible purposes.

Medicinal Plants.

The leaves of *Cassia alata* were found to exert a mildly purgative action, but though no doubt suitable for local use they would be of no value for export.

An examination of the "craw-craw" plant, *Ageratum conyzoides*, indicated the presence of traces of an alkaloid or alkaloids, but the quantity obtainable was too small for characterisation.

Timbers.

A specimen of "native mahogany" was found to be very similar to "Iroko" wood but showed certain differences. The tests indicated that the wood could not be profitably imported into this country.

Cassava Starch.

A specimen of cassava starch prepared by natives in Sierra Leone was valued at £12 per ton in London. The prices for this product range from £9 to £14 per ton according to quality.

Tobacco.

The results of the examination of a specimen of tobacco from Koinadugu indicated that tobacco of good quality could probably be grown in the district if expert supervision were available.

Minerals.

Twenty-seven mineral specimens were examined, but with the exception of a complex mineral containing very small quantities of zinc, lead, silver, copper, and gold, none of the samples represented material likely to be of economic value. It has been suggested that if the deposit of this complex mineral is extensive, it will be worth further investigation in order to ascertain whether richer material occurs.

A sample of clay proved to be of good quality and suitable for use in the manufacture of fire-bricks and tiles.

Exhibition Galleries.

Specimens of a number of the above products were added to the Sierra Leone Court in the Public Galleries after examination in the Scientific and Technical Department. An excellent series of photographs illustrating the scenery and industries of the Colony, and several new maps have also been placed on exhibition, together with a diagram giving general statistics relating to the trade, &c. of Sierra Leone.

APPENDIX II.

SOME NON-OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO SIERRA LEONE.

(*a*) HISTORICAL, DESCRIPTIVE, &C.

ALLDRIDGE. The Sherbro and its Hinterland. London, 1901.
CROOKS. A History of Sierra Leone. Dublin, 1903.
ELLIS. West African Sketches. London, 1881
INGHAM. Sierra Leone after a Hundred Years. London, 1894,
KELTIE. The Partition of Africa. London, 1895.

Knutsford, Viscountess. Life and Letters of Zachary Macaulay. London, 1900.
Parkes. Sierra Leone. 1894.
Pierson. Seven years in Sierra Leone. London, 1897.
Poole. Life, Scenery, and Customs in Sierra Leone and the Gambia. London, 1850.
Sibthorpe. History of Sierra Leone. London, 1881.
———. Geography of Sierra Leone. London, 1881.
Wallis. Advance of our West African Empire. London, 1903.

(b) Journals of Societies.

Royal Geographical Society's Journal—
Vol. X., Trotter. An Expedition to the Source of the Niger.
Vol. XXIV., 1904, Cox. Notes on the Anglo-Liberian Boundary.
Manchester Geographical Society's Journal—
1896, Vivian. The Mendi Country.
African Society's Journal—
1909, Willans. The Konnoh People.

(c) Native Languages.

Bullom (Nyländer). Grammar and Vocabulary of the Bullom Language. London, 1814.
Foulah (Reichardt). Grammar of the Fulah Language. London, 1876.
——— ———. Vocabulary of the Fulah Language. London, 1878.
——— (Faidherbe). Grammaire et vocabulaire de la langue foule. 1882.
——— (Krause). Beitrag zur Kenntnis der fulischen Sprache. Leipzig, 1884.
——— (Guiraudon). Manuel de la langue foule. Paris, 1894.
Mandingo (Macbrair). Grammar of the Mandingo language. London, 1837.
——— (Steinthal). Die Mande-Neger-Sprachen. Berlin, 1867.
——— (Rambaud). La langue mande, avec grammaire et vocabulaire français-mande, 1896.
Mende (Schön). Grammar of the Mende language. London, 1882.
——— ———. Mende-English and English-Mende Vocabulary. London, 1894.
——— (Cole). First book in the Mende language. London, 1900.
——— (Migeod). The Mende language. London, 1908.
Susu. Grammar and Vocabulary of the Susoo language. Edinburgh, 1802.
——— (Endemann). Versuch einer Grammatik des Sotho. 1876.
——— (Duport). Outlines of a grammar of the Susu language. London, 1882.
——— (Raimbault). Dictionnaire français-soso et soso-français. 1885.
——— (Douglin). Reading book in the Soso language. London, 1887.
Temne (Schlenker). Collection of Temne traditions, with English translation and Temne-English vocabulary. London, 1861.
——— ———. Temne Grammar. London, 1864.
——— ———. English-Temne dictionary. London, 1880.
——— Elba and Cole. Temne reading book. London, 1892.
——— Lewis. Temne Primer. London, 1904.
Vei or Gallinas (Koelle). Outlines of a Grammar of the Vei language, with Vei-English vocabulary. London, 1853.
——— ———. Outlines of a Grammar of the Vei language, with Vei-English vocabulary. Second enlarged edition, with appendix on the writing of the Vei People. London, 1854.
——— Sundry publications printed in the Vei script by the S.P.C.K., London.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	"
606	Seychelles	"
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Reitfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 648.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 611.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1910.

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No. 648.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 611.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
2nd July, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report on the Blue Book for the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1909, which has been prepared by Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
L. PROBYN,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(17218—2.) Wt. 27349—387. 1125 & 85. 9/10. D & S.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1909.

Sierra Leone is situated on the West Coast of Africa between 6° 55′ and 10° N. latitude and between 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of W. longitude, and consists of two parts:—

(*a*) the Colony of Sierra Leone and
(*b*) the Protectorate.

It is bounded on the north and north-east by French Guinea, and on the south-east by the negro Republic of Liberia. On the west, the Atlantic Ocean forms the boundary.

The estimated area of the Protectorate is 27,000 square miles, and of the Colony, 4,000 square miles.

The population of the Colony is estimated at 76,572; that of the Protectorate is estimated at 1,146,460, such estimate being based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid, and on the assumption that so many persons live in each. The average number of persons living in one house varies according to each district, *e.g.*, in the Headquarters, Sherbro, and Railway districts, the number is given as 5, in the Karene District as 6, in the Koinadugu District as 7, and in the Ronietta as 10, which last is considered a very low estimate.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate:—

Mendis	437,740
Temnes	276,080
Limbas	98,063
Sherbros	66,430
Susus Foulahs Yalunkahs	74,837
Konnohs	52,235
Kurankos	50,463
Lokkos	44,500
Bulloms	5,000
Gallinas	9,000
Krims	8,500
Mandingoes	9,000
Various	14,612
	1,146,460

The Colony and Protectorate are divided for administrative purposes into the following districts:—

Freetown Police District.
Headquarters District.—Headquarters, Waterloo.
Karene District.—Headquarters, Batkanu.
Ronietta District.—Headquarters, Moyamba.
Railway District.—Headquarters, Kennema.
Koinadugu District.—Headquarters, Kaballa.
Sherbro District.—Headquarters, Bonthe.

The first mentioned district is in the Colony and the second and last are partly in the Colony and partly in the Protectorate. The remaining districts are in the Protectorate.

The accompanying map shows the administrative divisions, the railway, tramlines, and telegraphs, and the principal towns and rivers.

The principles underlying the administration of the Protectorate have been to recognise as between natives the use of native customary law; to preserve the authority of the native rulers; and to strengthen the just and lawful exercise of that authority, while preventing all acts of aggression, and granting to all non-natives in the Protectorate the protection of the English law to which they had formerly been accustomed.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1909 was the highest yet recorded, and amounted to £361,326 9*s*. 3*d*., being £20,809 9*s*. 3*d*. in excess of the original estimate and £23,369 9*s*. 3*d*. more than the revised estimate.

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £24,580 14*s*. 10*d*., and showed an increase of £40,326 16*s*. 3*d*. over the revenue for the preceding year.

The marked increase in the receipts as compared with the estimate for the year under review (and the revenue derived in 1908) is due to the anxious caution exercised in framing the estimates. This was done on the basis of the receipts during 1908, in which year the bad condition of trade reacted upon the revenue to such an extent as to cause a falling off of £38,104 8*s*. 6*d*., as compared with the receipts for 1907.

The substantial increase in the value of imports and exports during 1909, resulting in an increase of the customs and railway receipts, proves now that the set-back experienced in 1908 was purely temporary. The causes for that set-back were fully indicated in the report for 1908.

The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

Head of Revenue.	1908.	1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	163,521 16 8	189,265 2 9	25,743 6 1	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	4,658 6 9	4,958 11 9	300 5 0	—
Licences and other Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	57,457 2 9	58,650 19 6	1,193 16 9	—
Fees of Court or Office, Payment for Specific Services, and Reimbursements-in-Aid	9,407 14 11	9,915 10 11	507 16 0	—
Post Office and Savings Bank	8,967 9 1	10,175 11 0	1,208 1 11	—
Rents of Government Property.	445 5 7	559 18 7	114 13 0	—
Interest	4,270 12 3	3,725 2 8	—	545 9 7
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	355 11 7	228 8 10	—	127 2 9
Railway	71,633 10 11	82,736 16 6	11,103 5 7	—
Tramways	275 12 6	1,069 8 9	793 16 3	—
Land Sales	6 10 0	40 18 0	34 8 0	—
Totals	320,999 13 0	361,326 9 3	40,999 8 7	672 12 4

The total revenue for the last five years 1905-9 is as follows:—

	£
1905	281,523
1906	305,074
1907	359,104
1908	320,999
1909	361,326

Expenditure.

The payments during the year amounted to £336,745 14*s*. 5*d*., being £3,395 5*s*. 7*d*. under the estimate, and £24,580 14*s*. 10*d*. less than the revenue.

The expenditure during 1909 was £5,125 10*s*. 2*d*. less than that for 1908.

The expenditure, on the whole, was of a normal character—few undertakings of any magnitude having been carried out. However, in order to cope with the increasing traffic on the railway during the latter half of the year, owing to the revival of trade, it was found necessary to spend £6,453 8*s*. 11*d*. on the purchase of four locomotives of the 28 class—which may be regarded as capital expenditure. The increase in the traffic necessitated a corresponding increase in the expenditure on coal, oil, and other locomotive stores, and the provision under this head was exceeded by £1,034 6*s*. 8*d*.

Supplementary expenditure to the extent of £21,042 12*s*. 4*d*. was authorised under various heads during the year; but owing to considerable savings having been effected under other heads, this supplementary expenditure was covered, and there was a net saving of £3,395 5*s*. 7*d*. on the total amount appropriated for the service of the year.

The gross excess on the appropriations for the various heads amounted to £7,063 3*s*. 8*d*., which has now been legalised by a Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure as compared with the previous year:—

—	1908.			1909.			Increase.			Decease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Charge on Account of Public Debt.	59,671	1	5	60,450	7	8	779	6	3	—		
Pensions	6,616	16	0	6,308	13	2	—			308	2	10
Governor and Legislature	5,995	12	5	6,690	7	7	694	15	2	—		
Colonial Secretary's Department.	4,315	16	11	4,709	2	5	393	5	6	—		
Provincial Administration	26,242	1	7	28,150	16	10	1,908	15	3	—		
Treasury	2,986	8	8	3,273	10	5	287	1	9	—		
Customs	11,300	16	0	12,079	19	10	779	3	10	—		
Audit	2,357	4	3	2,698	0	7	340	16	4	—		
Port and Marine	1,115	11	1	1,044	13	7	—			70	17	6
Legal	7,003	2	2	8,140	6	11	1,137	4	9	—		
Civil Police...	8,631	0	5	8,901	13	9	270	13	4	—		
Prisons	6,151	8	0	5,823	7	0	—			328	1	0
Medical	15,501	1	11	14,977	5	4	—			523	16	7

—	1908.			1909.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,962	7	3	5,217	8	0	255	0	9	—		
Nursing Home	810	4	5	896	9	7	86	5	2	—		
Education Department ...	6,444	7	3	6,525	9	1	81	1	10	—		
Miscellaneous Services ...	9,096	13	11	8,906	9	3	—			190	4	8
Post Office	10,761	6	0	11,781	7	11	1,020	1	11	—		
Agricultural Department	2,601	9	7	2,585	9	3	—			16	0	4
Public Works Department	3,502	11	3	3,851	17	0	349	5	9	—		
Do. Recurrent ...	10,451	11	11	13,563	18	4	3,112	6	5	—		
Do. Extraordinary	11,791	0	7	19,135	9	3	7,344	8	8	—		
West African Frontier Force	20,924	8	6	21,641	11	5	717	2	11	—		
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	81,957	18	5	75,004	19	8	—			6,952	18	9
Tramways	177	11	6	4,387	0	7	4,209	9	1	—		
Public Works Extraordinary (Special).	20,501	13	2	—			—			20,501	13	2
Total	341,871	4	7	336,745	14	5	23,766	4	8	28,891	14	10

The total expenditure for the five years 1905-9 is as follows:—

	£
1905	295,490
1906	285,661
1907	345,567
1908	341,871
1909	336,746

Loan Expenditure.

The net available proceeds of the loan of £1,250,000, issued in 1904, were further reduced during the year by £57 8*s.* 9*d.*, being the expenses incurred in converting bonds into stock.

The amount expended during the year on works chargeable to Loan Funds amounted to £5,694 12*s.* 5*d.*, the principal items contributing to this expenditure being for railway construction (additional works for Open Lines), erection of barracks and quarters at the headquarters of the Sierra Leone Battalion West African Frontier Force at Daru, on the Moa River, and extensive repairs to the Freetown Wharf.

The total expenditure on works chargeable to Loan Funds amounted at the end of the year to £1,186,354 12*s.* leaving a balance of £9,003 4*s.* 10*d.* available for the completion of any works in progress, and for carrying out such further undertakings that may be authorised. The greater part of the loan raised in 1904 has been expended on works of a reproductive nature.

Although the principal undertaking carried out and paid for from Loan Funds, *i.e.*, the railway, does not yet earn sufficient revenue to cover capital charges, there being only a slight margin of profit after paying working expenses, it has nevertheless, by opening up the country, indirectly so augmented the revenue that the capital expended on it may be considered a profitable investment.

Assets and Liabilities.

The surplus in the assets and liabilities account was increased as a result of the year's transactions, and amounted, on the 31st of December, to £155,775 12*s.* 4*d.*, of which sum £89,960 15*s.* 8*d.* is invested in securities, £25,600 is in the hands of the Crown Agents at interest, and £26,331 9*s.* 1*d.* is represented by the value of railway stores on hand at the end of the year.

Public Debt.

The Funded Debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,271,027, made up as follows:—

4 per cent. ten years Convertible Bonds, £552,200.
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929-1954, £718,827.

The liability in respect of the Funded Debt was increased by £180 during the year, being premium (2 per cent.) on Bonds converted into Stock under the terms of issue; but it was reduced by the redemption of Bonds to the value of £5,600 drawn for payment out of the Sinking Fund.

The contributions to the Sinking Funds have been regularly made, and, in the case of Bonds, the sum of £5,600, referred to in the preceding paragraph, has been utilised towards the extinction of the Funded Debt. The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st December, 1909, were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bonds	3,103	15	2
Stock	18,190	8	3
	21,294	3	5

The net liability of the Colony in respect of its Funded Debt, after allowing for the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds at the 31st December, 1909, was £1,249,732 16*s.* 7*d.*

Currency.

In addition to the current coin of the United Kingdom, certain foreign coins are legal tender in Sierra Leone.

Of these coins the French 5-franc piece is the only one frequently met with, it being in considerable use in those districts of the Protectorate which are adjacent to French Guinea.

Until comparatively recently, the threepenny piece was the lowest form of coin in circulation in the Protectorate, a fact which tended to keep the prices of the cheaper articles there comparatively high. This has been to a large extent overcome by providing that in every payment of money by the Government a certain proportion of bronze coin is to be included. By this means a considerable quantity of pennies and half-pennies have been put into circulation. An attempt has been made to extend the system to farthings, and a certain proportion of farthings are paid out whenever cash is disbursed by the Government, but the majority of natives do not take kindly to the use of farthings, and it is anticipated that it will be some time before they come into general use.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at between £50,000 and £60,000. It is believed that a considerable amount of gold and silver coinage is annually converted by the natives of the Colony and Protectorate into jewellery.

There is a branch of the Bank of British West Africa established in Freetown. Incidentally it may be said that the building recently erected is one of the finest in the Colony. There is also an agency of the Bank at Bo, an important town on the railway and one of the chief trade centres in the Protectorate.

Bills of exchange on their principals in Europe may be obtained from some of the mercantile establishments in the Colony. For the convenience of the mercantile community, inland bills of £100 are issued at par by the Colonial Treasurer on the Sub-Treasuries of the various districts.

General.

The amount on deposit on the 1st January, 1909, to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund was £5,333 18*s*. 1*d*. The receipts during the year were £3,658 4*s*. 5*d*., and the expenditure on various works and improvements in the districts in which the tax was collected amounted to £3,042 7*s*. 10d., leaving a balance of £5,949 14*s*. 8*d*. available for further improvements.

Municipalities.

Freetown Municipality.

The total revenue received from all sources from 1st November, 1908, to 31st October, 1909 (the financial year), amounted to £9,525, showing an increase of £407 over the revenue for the previous financial year.

The expenditure, including certain sums payable at the end of the last financial year, amounted to £9,428, which is more than the expenditure of the previous year by £577.

The increase of revenue in 1908-9 is due to the collection of arrears of the city and water rates.

The increase of expenditure in 1908-9 is due to the purchase of new lamp pillars for the lighting of the streets; purchase of materials for the water-works and the fire brigade; and the addition of a blacksmith and carpenter with their attendant labourers, to the staff of the survey department.

The municipality is in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from the Government of £1,800. The following table shows the revenue (including the grant-in-aid) and expenditure of the municipality in the five years 1905-9:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1905	6,185	7,163
1906	6,582	6,672
1907	9,018	9,082
1908	9,118	8,851
1909	9,525	9,428

The municipaltiy has a debt of £30,748 2*s*. 11*d*. Of this sum £30,448 was lent to them by the Government and £300 lent privately by debenture. £2,800 was utilized for the carrying out of municipal works and £27,948 2*s*. 11*d*. was in respect of the Freetown Water Works.

For the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the loans amounting to £2,800, £435 6*s*. 11*d*. has been accumulated. The sum of £279 9*s*. 9*d*. is paid annually to the Colonial Government as the proportion of the General Loan Sinking Fund Contribution in respect of the Water Works Loan.

Sherbro Municipal Board.

The revenue of the Sherbro Municipal Board, which is derived from the proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees, supplemented by an annual grant-in-aid from the general revenue of £152 for the sanitary police in Bonthe and an annual grant-in-aid from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund of £300 for general purposes, amounted in 1909 to £989 0*s*. 1*d*. This added to a balance of £391 4*s*. 1*d*. from 1908 made the gross receipts amount to £1,480 4*s*. 2*d*.

The expenditure of the Board on drainage, roads, streets, and bridges and other necessary works, including salaries of staff and sanitary police, amounted to £1,445 7*s*., leaving a balance of £34 17*s*. 2*d*. to be carried forward to 1910.

Compared with 1908, the revenue shows an excess of £92 0*s*. 6*d*., and the expenditure an excess of £334 7*s*. 6*d*. The balance in hand carried forward to 1910 was £356 6*s*. 11*d*. less than the amount brought forward from 1908.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The gross revenue collected by the Customs Department during the year under review amounted to £198,500. This sum includes £1,988 collected as duty by the Post Office on parcels. Payments of drawbacks and refunds reduced this amount to £197,399, which shows an increase of £27,022, equal to 15·9 per cent. over the net revenue for 1908. This increase of £27,022 arises mainly from Customs specific duties. The total import duties account for £189,557, which shows an increase of £24,729 over 1908. This increase is composed of £20,527 specific and £4,202 *ad valorem* duties.

Sherbro District contributed £48,819 to the revenue, Sherbro, (which includes York Island) from its favourable situation owing to its excellent waterways, being responsible for the greater part so contributed. This share amounted to £45,468 or 93·14 per cent. of the whole district. The hinterland of Sherbro, unlike the other districts of the Protectorate, is favoured by the existence of rivers navigable by small trading craft for a considerable distance up from their mouths, and the produce, in what is naturally a rich palm-bearing country, is more easily brought to the large trading firms on the coast. Sherbro, Sulima, and Mano Salija (also in the Sherbro District) are the only other ports in Sierra Leone besides Freetown to which large steamers can go.

The port or anchorage of Sherbro is at York Island, near Bonthe, and from it much river traffic is carried on direct up the Jong, Bum, Kittam, and other rivers, and with the mainland by way of Bendu. It is available for vessels up to 18 feet draught.

The gross amount of customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import is given below in comparison with the figures of the preceding year:—

—	1908.	1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Apparel	1,315	1,290	—	25
Cottons	20,311	24,741	4,430	—
Haberdashery	1,511	916	—	595
Hardware	1,908	1,856	—	52
Oil, Kerosine	6,679	10,079	3,400	—
Provisions	1,274	1,345	71	—
Salt	2,031	2,468	437	—
Spirits	70,553	83,416	12,863	—
Sugar	3,036	3,257	221	—
Tobacco, Manufactured, including Cigars and Cigarettes.	2,229	2,167	—	62
Tobacco, Unmanufactured ...	36,807	40,303	3,496	—
Other minor imports taken collectively.	17,174	17,719	545	—
Aggregate receipts ...	164,828	189,557	25,463	734

The increase it will be observed, is general, spirits being responsible for the largest item, viz., £12,863. Cottons, kerosine oil, and unmanufactured tobacco are responsible for a further sum of £11,326, and other minor imports, £545.

Imports.

Imports are valued for statistical purposes at their invoiced value, less trade discounts, but plus the cost of packing, charges for freight and insurance, and commission to the port of entry.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the five years 1905-9:—

	£
1905	702,648
1906	885,851
1907	988,022
1908	813,700
1909	978,807

It will be seen that the value of the import trade has increased by £165,107 or 20·29 per cent. since 1908.

Specie has increased by £112,990 or 135·06 per cent. This is a natural consequence of the general development of trade which has taken place in the Colony during the year under review.

The only decrease is in Government imports. Variations in these imports are to be expected, as the importation of articles for important works is not evenly distributed over successive years. In this case the decrease is attributed to the fact that the important works undertaken in 1909 were supplied to a great extent with materials imported during 1908.

The state of the commercial import trade is very satisfactory. There is a large increase in each class—Free, Specific, and Ad Valorem—a condition of affairs which forms an agreeable contrast to that existing in 1908.

In regard to the importation of alcoholic liquors, it is observed that the total amount of duty paid thereon showed an increase of £12,718. This does not mean that a greater quantity of liquor was imported, as the figures show a net decrease of 21,914 gallons of alcoholic liquors as compared with 1908. The value, however, is only £54 less.

The only increase of any item imported was 4,720 gallons of ale and porter to the value of £800. This, it can safely be assumed, was for the European population of Sierra Leone, among whom are included a certain amount of white troops. The natives, as a class, do not drink ale or porter, and, as a rule, are decidedly temperate.

There were decreases of 182 gallons of liqueurs and cordials to the value of £18, 23,247 gallons of spirits to the value of £26, and 3,205 gallons of wines to the value of £810.

The increases and decreases of duties, compared with 1908, received in respect of the above were as follows:—

Ale and porter—increase £160.
Liqueurs and cordials—decrease £52.
Spirits—increase £12,915.
Wines—decrease £305.

Tralles' alcoholometer is the instrument by means of which the alcoholic strength of imported spirits is ascertained. The rate of duty in force is 5*s*. per gallon of or under the strength of 50 per cent. of pure alcohol; and, on spirits of a greater strength, an additional penny for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per cent.

It is noticeable that while rum shows a decrease in quantity of 24,949 gallons, to the value of £1,837, there is an increase in duty of £1,774. This apparent anomaly is due to larger importations of strong spirits of an alcoholic strength of from 75 per cent. to 90 per cent., on which duty is paid according to the scale indicated above (*i.e.*, an additional penny per gallon for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per cent.). The spirit is then taken out of the Customs, conveyed to the importers' premises, and reduced by the addition of water to a potable strength.

To reduce 100 gallons of spirits at 90 percentage volume of alcohol (58 over proof) to 48·4 percentage volume of alcohol, or 15 under proof, would require 86 gallons of water. Thus it will be seen that such spirits, when prepared by local merchants for the market, are practically doubled in quantity.

The same remarks apply to "Other Spirits," which show a falling off of 664 gallons but an increase in duty of £825.

Thus, though the actual quantity of spirits imported into the country has been decreased during 1909 by 21,914 gallons, the quantity consumed has not been very materially affected.

Gin shows an increase of 2,600 gallons, to the value of £1,506, imported, the import duty received for 1909 in respect of this item being £9,844 over that for 1908. Gin is not affected by the rule mentioned in the above paragraph, as it is imported, as a rule, in bottles, which hardly ever contain more than 50 percentage volume of alcohol.

Exports.

For statistical purposes, exports are valued at their initial cost plus all charges incurred up to actual shipment on board the exporting vessel.

The total exports for the year under review amounted to £981,466, including commercial specie £139,253, showing an increase of £244,711 over the value of the exports for the previous year.

The value of food and drink, as compared with 1908, has increased by 37·5 per cent., and tobacco by 5·35 per cent.; while raw materials and articles mainly manufactured, such as palm kernels and palm oil, have increased by 48·58 per cent. Palm kernels and palm oil, the principal products of Sierra Leone, contributed £546,887 to the total value of exports; thus it will be seen that their share in the enormous advance of 48·58 per cent. is no small one. On the other hand, articles wholly or mainly manufactured have decreased by 18·01 per cent., and specie by 8·62 per cent. Of the 37·5 per cent. increase in food and drink, kola nuts and ginger represent 35·8 per cent.

The exports of specie have declined to the extent of £13,143. It is safe to attribute this to the freer and wider circulation of money in the Colony and Protectorate consequent on the development of trade.

It may here be explained that there was no real decrease in any exports except specie. What apparent decrease there is, is attributable to a change in the classification as compared with 1908. The decrease of 18·01 per cent. in articles wholly or mainly manufactured is due to no contraction of trade in that direction, but is accounted for by the transference of articles from one group of exports to another.

The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1905-9, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.				Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.	Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905 ...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150
1906 ...	526,342	43,526	121,451	25,304	190,281	716,623
1907 ...	675,544	44,118	96,827	14,770	155,715	831,259
1908 ...	529,849	36,364	152,397	18,145	206,906	736,755
1909 ...	759,917	68,193	139,253	14,103	221,549	981,466

It is evident from the above statement that 1909 has been the best year as regards her indigenous products that Sierra Leone has up to the present seen.

Increases in Exports.

Kola Nuts.—The quantity exported in 1909 amounted to 1,324 tons, to the value of £153,919, as compared with 1,162 tons, of the value of £108,895, in 1908; showing an increase of 159 tons, to the value of £45,024, over 1908. This article contributes 20·26 per cent. to the total exports. Notwithstanding the somewhat fluctuating market, both local and foreign, considerably higher prices have been paid during 1909 than during 1908. The improvement may be attributed to the gradually increasing facilities for transport in the interior, the opening up by the chiefs of roads subsidised by the Government, and the using of those already opened up by the Government, and the existence of low stocks in the usual foreign markets, due to comparatively small exportations during 1908. This is an article the use of which is much more appreciated by the natives of the West Coast of Africa than by any other people. The fact that it is in such great demand and that no special difficulties accompany its cultivation, make it hard to understand why its use has not been extended to the European markets to a greater extent than is the case at present. The fact remains, that of the 1,324 tons of kola nuts exported from Sierra Leone, 1,321 went to ports on the coast, chiefly Dakar, Bissao, Bathurst, and Rufisque, the remaining 3 tons going to the United Kingdom.

Kola nuts are extensively used by the natives in the Protectorate as a tonic stimulant. One nut well masticated and eaten will sustain a man for a whole day without food. The nut has no intoxicating or reactionary effect, though it has a very bitter and astringent taste.

Kola nuts, exported to the Gambia and French Guinea, are for the most part taken to the interior, where they are ground down, mixed with honey and seasoned with ginger, pepper, or other condiment, and used as an adjunct to ordinary food.

The Mano Salija and Sulima parts of the Sherbro District are particularly rich in the kola nut, and when transport facilities are made easier in this district a great impetus will, it is confidently anticipated, be given to the export trade in kola nuts as well as to other products of the soil.

Palm Kernels.—This article is the staple product of the Colony, and it is gratifying to record an increase of 9,176 tons over the quantity exported during 1908. This increase is equal to 27·2 per cent., and is valued at £149,727.

The year under review has been exceptionally good in furthering the export of produce of every description, and it is only natural that the staple product should respond to beneficent influences to a greater degree than the other products. The action of the Government in extending tramways from the railway to grounds hitherto practically untouched, owing to the difficulty of transport but which were rich in produce, notably the Yonni country and Baiima; improved roads and means of transport, keenness of competition, and the good prices obtainable, have all borne a part in stimulating the natives to sustained exertions in supplying the demand. That the demand has been great and consistent is evidenced by the regularity of shipments throughout the year, the monthly average being 3,575 tons. In only one month, April, did the shipments fall below 2,000 tons; while in February they exceeded 7,000.

The average price, though lower than that obtained in 1907, considerably exceeded the average of 1908. The prices paid for palm kernels in 1907 were exceptionally high, owing to the necessity at that time for obtaining a suitable substitute for animal fats, a deficiency in the supply of which was caused by the tinned-meat scare in America, and the shrinkage in the export of animal fats during and immediately after the Russo-Japanese War.

It may be interesting to record that prices have been well maintained, and up to the time of writing there has been no indication of any diminution.

The increased supply of kernels, like the increased supply of kola nuts, may be attributed mainly to the greater facilities for transport in the Protectorate and to the wider dissemination of market prices, thereby engendering greater confidence between the natives and the trader. With more general knowledge of prevailing prices, there is not the feeling that the traders are combining to lower prices, and there is not the reluctance, felt in 1908, at parting with their produce.

It is a fact that the hinterland of Sierra Leone is rich in palm kernels, and it is also a fact that until the railway is further extended into all the rich palm areas in the Protectorate, a great part of the agricultural resources of Sierra Leone will remain undeveloped. Palm kernels and palm oil represent more than 60 per cent. of the whole export trade of Sierra Leone, so that the importance of these products in any scheme of development cannot well be exaggerated. A large proportion of the palm kernels grown in the Protectorate are out of reach of any form of transport which it would pay to employ for their conveyance to a place where they would easily be disposed of; the result is that they are never collected, to the loss of the people, the Government, and the world at large.

Now that vegetable oils occupy such a prominent position in the commercial world, it is a matter of some surprise that the methods of extraction of the oil from the pericarp of the nut and from the kernel itself are so primitive. A few nut-cracking machines have been imported, but they all seem defective in one or other respects, and most of the kernels shipped from Sierra Leone are obtained by women and children placing the nuts singly on a stone and cracking them with the aid of another stone. This is a great waste of human labour which could be better utilised in other ways.

The Agricultural Department of the Gold Coast Colony, experimenting with a nut-cracking machine, found that a saving in labour of 41·5 per cent. was effected in cracking 2,050 lbs. of nuts. Another machine with 22 lbs. of fruit yielded 14·85 lbs. of nuts in the depulper, and from the pulp thus obtained 2·2 lbs. of palm oil were expressed—a yield of about five-sixths of the oil present.

Such results would seem to justify the introduction of machinery into Sierra Leone, but it does not appear that the time has yet come to do so. There exist certain difficulties which must be overcome before machinery can be of effective service. Among the foremost of these are scarcity of labour and the lack of suitable means of transport. At present the men gather the palm fruit and the women and children crack the nuts and express the oil. The products—finished as far as this Colony is concerned—are packed into receptacles, such as calabashes or kerosine oil tins, of convenient size for "head" transport which, in most palm-bearing districts, is the only form of transport. When, however, facilities for transport are provided and the transport of the whole fruit from the place of origin to the factories is rendered easy, the erection of machinery will follow as a matter of course. More time will be devoted to farming (the palm tree needs hardly any cultivation), the food supply will increase, and with it the further development of the Protectorate and Colony.

The demand for palm oil is regular and consistent. The manufacture of soap and candles will always provide a ready market for a great proportion of the oil produced. Large quantities are also used in the tin-plate industry, where the heated iron plates are covered with palm oil to prevent oxidisation before they are dipped into the molten tin.

As the railway advances the large trading houses will, as a matter of course, erect branches and extend their business. The market will thus be brought practically to the door of the consumer, and it is reasonable to conclude that the advance of civilisation, with the additional requirements accompanying its march, will provide an incentive to work which has hitherto, in those districts, been lacking.

Kernels which are transported by rail arrive at the port of shipment in better condition than those which have been brought down the rivers. There is less breakage and, consequently, a slighter loss; 5 per cent. ought to be a sufficient allowance for loss in transit from the place of origin to the English market. Palm kernels are shipped in bags and bulk and cannot stand very rough treatment. The more kernels broken, the greater the loss of oil by evaporation, &c. Those firms which exercise care in their methods of shipping find that it is possible to keep the loss within the limit of 5 per cent.

The sustained and increasing demand for palm kernels may be to a great extent accounted for by the failure of the American cotton crop, which event was foreseen long before it actually happened. Cotton seed enters largely into the composition of certain cattle foods. Palm kernels also are capable of being used as an ingredient of such foods, and the supply of cotton seed having failed, it became necessary to draw more freely on kernels as an efficient substitute. Further, it is assumed that the animal oil and kindred industries of Russia have not yet fully recovered from the severe check imposed upon them by the Russo-Japanese War. The use of palm kernels as a substitute for other articles may be expected to have the permanent effect of establishing it as a necessary adjunct to certain industries, and, even if the use of the articles were partly reverted to, the products of the palm tree will still continue to be used in greater proportion than before the occasion arose to find a new use for them.

Palm Oil.—The exports of palm oil during 1909 amounted to 851,999 gallons, of the value of £64,273. This is an increase over the quantity exported in 1908 of 362,362 gallons, to the value of £27,822.

The proportion of oil to kernels continues to grow, but not as quickly as might be expected. For every 100 tons of kernels shipped from Sierra Leone in 1909 there were exported 1,986 gallons of oil. For the port of Freetown the proportion is 100 tons of kernels to 1,039 gallons of oil; while for every 100 tons of kernels, the port of Sherbro ships 3,590 gallons of oil.

The explanation of this striking difference seems to lie in the fact that the native traders of the Sherbro District are much more alive to the value of palm oil as an article of commerce than are those of other parts of the Protectorate—one reason for this being that Sherbro exported palm oil long before the other parts of the Protectorate took it up. They have adopted a method of using a net in the process of expressing the oil from the heated fibre, and this method has proved that a greater yield of oil can be obtained with a less expenditure of labour.

Steps are being taken to extend the use of the net to other districts, and already the chiefs of other districts have expressed their intention to extend its use. It is expected, therefore, that in time the net process will be universally adopted.

Palm oil, again, is a staple food throughout the Colony and Protectorate. Its domestic uses are many, and it is impossible to estimate, even approximately, the quantity which is used in home consumption.

Ginger—Seven hundred and twenty-two tons of ginger, of the value of £14,147, were exported in 1909, as compared with 637 tons, of the value of £11,871, exported in 1908. The increase in this commodity is not all that could be desired.

Sierra Leone ginger has for some years been steadily improving in quality, yet the prices obtained in European markets continue discouraging. It must be admitted that there is much room for improvement in the quality grown, as the roots are small and, compared with Chinese ginger, undeveloped. It appears to grow on most unpromising looking soil, and the question of the degree of development is not one that troubles the native to any great extent. More ginger is grown now in the Protectorate than formerly. Several chiefs and many native farmers have become actively and intelligently interested in its cultivation, but there is not much inducement to improve the methods of cultivation or preparation, as the same price is paid by local traders for ginger which has been very roughly cleaned as for that which has undergone a more refined process of cleaning. The natural result of this is that only the roughly cleaned ginger is now exported, and the effect is to keep prices much lower than they otherwise would be. Efforts are being made to stimulate trade in this valuable commodity by inducing traders to differentiate between ginger roughly cleaned and that which has been thoroughly cleaned and prepared for transport.

Ivory.—The exports of ivory for 1909 amounted to 69 cwt., to the value of £1,781, as compared with 31 cwt., to the value of £1,091, exported in 1908. The trade in ivory, which has been languishing for some years owing, possibly, to the restrictions on importations of firearms, appears to be gradually recovering.

Local prices have been low on account of the small size of tusks brought to market. Most of the tusks obtained in Sierra Leone have been taken from elephants shot by sportsmen. Eight elephants are reported to have been shot in 1909; but most of the ivory exported comes from French Guinea, from which place it is brought across the border into Sierra Leone.

Piassava.—The exports of piassava amounted to 675 tons, of the value of £9,859, as compared with 516 tons, of the value of £8,628.

Most of the piassava exported from Sierra Leone comes from the Sherbro District, the reason for this being that the piassava palm thrives best in swampy districts. The difficulty of transport, also, is not felt so acutely in that district as in the more remote parts of the Protectorate, where it grows in isolated localities.

The prices paid for piassava were lower in 1909 than in the preceding years, but this did not affect the exports to any extent. One of the leading firms in Freetown is experimenting with a machine for cleaning piassava, and if the experiment is a success there is no doubt that the exports will increase still more, and a better price be obtained, but it is not anticipated that the crude methods of cleaning practised by the natives will be entirely supplanted.

Rice.—The quantity of rice exported in 1909 amounted to 55,537 bushels, of the value of £10,034, as compared with 37,693 bushels, of the value of £7,206, exported in 1908.

This product is increasing in importance every year. There is a constant demand along the West Coast of Africa for the rice grown in Sierra Leone, and it is generally acknowledged to have more nutritive properties than either American or Indian rice.

Rice is the staple article of food of the natives of Sierra Leone, and, unfortunately, the natives had not sufficient foresight to retain sufficient from the crop in 1909 to tide them over the "hungry season" in 1910, as the period from May to October is usually called. The result is that at the time of writing the state of affairs in the Protectorate as regards the supply of rice is regarded as serious. The cause assigned to the shortage of rice in this case is, that the rains came sooner than they were expected, and the farmers were consequently unable to burn the bush on their farms before they started sowing the rice.

Of the total quantity of rice exported, 46,500 bushels (in the husk) were sent to French Guinea, Conakry alone taking 9,000 bushels. While over 4,000 bushels of clean rice were shipped to Conakry, only 203 bushels were exported to the rest of French Guinea. This marked difference is accounted for by the fact that the freight charged by small craft trading between Freetown and the parts of French Guinea beyond Conakry on clean rice is very high as compared with that charged on rice in the husk.

Rice is not extensively cultivated in French Guinea, and as long as that condition of affairs remains it will provide a good and conveniently situated market for the rice exported from Sierra Leone.

In addition to exporting 55,537 bushels of rice, Sierra Leone supplied her own wants in 1909. The small quantity imported, about 2,186 bushels, was imported partly as a speculation to be sold during the "hungry season" and partly as the property of private individuals.

Gum Copal.—Forty-six tons were exported to the value of £5,036 in 1909, as compared with 45 tons, to the value of £4,948, exported in 1908.

The gum copal industry has remained practically stationary for the past two years. Sierra Leone at one time used to export large quantities of gum copal, and there is no reason why, in time, the industry should not be awakened to life again. To this end the Government have, in the various nurseries, half a million seedlings which will be ready for planting out in 1911. It will, of course, be many years before the seedlings will be gum-producing trees; but efforts are being made to bring the value of the already existing gum trees to the knowledge of the chiefs and headmen, and it is anticipated that such action will have a markedly beneficial effect on the industry.

Decreases in Exports.

Rubber, 26 tons, of the value of £8,079, were exported in 1909, as compared with 41 tons, of the value of £9,372, exported during 1908.

The trade in rubber continues to decline. Prices in 1909 were higher than during the few years previous, but they are still unsatisfactory. One reason adduced for this steady decrease is that much of the rubber from the Koinadugu District, a district which in former days largely contributed to the exports of rubber of the Colony, no longer comes down to Freetown but goes instead to Marmo in French Guinea, which has recently been opened up as a large trade centre, and which is on the Conakry Railway and only three short days' march from the Anglo-French frontier.

Sierra Leone at present is not a rubber-producing country, though there appears to be no reason why it should not export great quantities of the kind indigenous to this part of West Africa.

Direction of Trade.

It is necessary to explain in dealing with this subject that the ports mentioned in the Blue Book as being the places from which the goods are imported, are not necessarily the places from which the goods were originally obtained. Similarly, the countries to which exports are shipped are not always the countries of ultimate destination. Were this so, the trade with the United States of America would appear considerably larger than is shown, as all the American products and manufactures passing in transit to this Colony are shown as imports from the United Kingdom. Every endeavour is made, however, to obtain accurate information from importers and exporters as to the countries of consignment and of ultimate destination of their goods, and, although they are willing to co-operate with the Government to this end, the peculiar conditions of trade on the West Coast of Africa render accuracy sometimes difficult to secure. Formerly, American goods came direct from America in sailing ships, but now comparatively few of the imports from that country come direct. The principal articles which still come direct are flour, kerosine oil, and lumber.

The import trade with the United Kingdom has remained practically stationary. With Germany and the foreign West African possessions it has decreased by 1·73 per cent. and 3·15 per cent., respectively, while it has increased with the British West African possessions and other countries by 2·63 per cent. and ·44 per cent., respectively. On the other hand, the export trade with the United Kingdom and the British West African possessions has decreased by 5·31 per cent. and 7·58 per cent., respectively, while the trade with Germany and the foreign West African possessions has increased by 1·58 per cent. and 9·81 per cent., respectively.

The aggregate trade with the United Kingdom and the British West African possessions has decreased by 2·93 per cent. and 2·06 per cent., respectively, while with Germany and the foreign West African possessions it has increased by ·69 per cent. and 4·53 per cent., respectively.

Imports from the United Kingdom still form the most striking feature of the import trade. For the year under review they stand at £704,459, or 71·97 per cent. of the whole, an increase of 1·81 per cent. over the previous year. If the United Kingdom and the British possessions are taken together, the percentage rises to 77·34. Germany supplies 9·72 per cent., and this, though the money value of German imports has increased by £2,000, is, as stated above, a decrease of 1·73 per cent.

Holland shows an increase of £900, attributed to larger importations of cotton goods.

The United States of America also shows a gain of £11,445, due to greater shipments of kerosine oil. A direct trade in kerosine oil between America and West Africa is being opened up.

Germany easily maintains her position as chief importer of palm kernels, having taken 36,767 tons, or 85·7 per cent. of the total quantity exported during the year. A comparatively small quantity of palm oil, viz., 41,720 gallons, found its way to the German market, as also did rather more than half the total export of piassava.

Though her other imports from Sierra Leone are of no great value, the price of palm kernels ensures that Germany is still the Colony's best paying customer.

The United Kingdom took 761,156 gallons of palm oil, or 89·3 per cent. of the total shipment. The remainder of the palm oil shipped was distributed between various places in West Africa —British and foreign. These various places also, as stated above (p. 19), absorbed practically the whole quantity of rice exported.

The aggregate trade to and from the Colony during the year amounted in value to £1,960,273, showing an increase of £409,818 over 1908, made up of imports £165,107 and exports £244,711.

The United Kingdom still remains at the head of the list of countries with which trade is carried on, out-distancing the others by a long way.

French West African possessions show a considerable increase, due mainly to their increased importation of kola nuts, but due to some extent also to larger dealings in specie.

It is observed that while the trade with both the United Kingdom and Germany shows an important increase, the value of German trade has increased in greater proportion than that of the United Kingdom. This is attributed to Germany's imports of palm kernels, one of our most valuable products, of which she takes more than all other countries combined.

The exports to Germany have increased by £116,860, while the exports to the United Kingdom show an increase of only £6,689.

Shipping.

The tonnage given in the Shipping Returns published in the Blue Book, is the net register tonnage as borne on the vessels' certificates of registry.

Vessels bringing cargo from more than one foreign port are recorded as entering from the first port at which cargo for the Colony was embarked; and vessels departing from the Colony with cargo for more than one foreign port are recorded as clearing for the last port at which such cargo is to be discharged.

In 1909, 1,116 vessels, of a tonnage of 1,096,686, entered, and 1,133 vessels, of a tonnage of 1,094,446, cleared from the ports of the Colony, as compared with 981 vessels, of a tonnage of 1,021,803, entering, and 959 vessels, of a tonnage of 1,024,249, clearing in 1908.

The figures representing the aggregate tonnage of sea-going ships entering and clearing from the ports of the Colony during the year 1908 were, up to that time, the largest on record; but they are easily eclipsed by those of 1909, which show a net increase of 144,300 tons. Of this advance, British, German, and Belgian steamers account, in almost equal proportions, for 121,151 tons.

There is a tendency on the part of the shipping companies who have dealings with this part of the Coast, to displace the smaller steamers by vessels of greater carrying capacity. This tends to decrease the number of vessels, but with an undiminished volume of trade a considerable increase in tonnage is almost a necessary consequence. This is exemplified in the returns for 1909 by a decrease of 8 in the number of British steam vessels entered, the tonnage being 21,466 greater than that of the previous year. In the case of Belgian vessels the number remains the same, while the tonnage is 21,168 greater. German steam shipping shows an increase of 5 vessels and 20,556 tons, due to the entrance, during the winter when the Baltic is closed by ice, of German ships into the coal traffic.

The net increase in steam vessels entered for the year 1909 is 5. The net increase in registered tonnage is 72,616. The tonnage seems disproportionate to the number of vessels. It is an increase on the aggregate, due, as stated above, to the entrance of vessels of greater measurement into the West African trade, and it must not be regarded as the tonnage of five steamers. The registered tonnage of the largest steamer regularly entering this port is 4,299.

Owing principally to the highly successful produce season, a great many small craft have embarked in the coasting trade. The result is an increase of 180 vessels and 2,287 tons. The number of vessels employed in this trade depends very largely on the success or failure of the native crops, and as the palm and kola industries become more firmly established the number of these small craft will increase.

A more correct idea of the volume of shipping actually connected with the trade of the Colony would be gained by deducting the number and tonnage of Belgian vessels. They are employed in carrying mails and passengers between Belgium and the Congo, and call at Freetown on the voyage for coal, water, and labourers. Their cargo traffic with Sierra Leone is "nil," and their passenger traffic is so slight that it may be ignored.

The number of Belgian vessels entered in 1909 was 35, with a tonnage of 125,516.

Agriculture.

Progress in the agricultural development of the country has been, and still continues to be, much hampered by the absence of a properly organised Agricultural Department. In spite, however, of this drawback, it is satisfactory to report that the efforts of the Government have succeeded in awakening greater interest in agriculture in the Colony and Protectorate.

At the experimental farms at Yamadu in the Konnoh Sub-district of the Railway District, and at Batganu in the Karene District, it has been proved to the natives that by deep hoeing and rotation of crops, rice crops can be obtained without letting the land lie fallow—a custom hitherto extensively practised in the Protectorate owing to ignorance of more scientific methods of cultivation.

There has been, however, no alteration yet in the agricultural methods of the natives, and it is expected that it will be some time before they adopt new (to them) methods of cultivation.

At Kennema, the headquarters of the Railway District, a nursery for rubber, cocoa, and gum copal has been established, the intention as regards rubber being to plant it in the forest-clad hills in the neighbourhood and, as regards cocoa, to have plantations in different parts of the district.

The cocoa already planted out is doing well. Some Para rubber seedlings have also been planted out and are growing in a very satisfactory manner.

A large number of Funtumia Elastica seedlings were planted on the hills above referred to.

In the nursery several thousand seeds of the gum copal tree were planted and have germinated.

In the Ronietta District the gum copal trade has considerably revived owing to the adoption of more careful methods in cutting. The natives have been encouraged to make new plantations of new trees. The seedlings planted under Government supervision in 1907 are doing well. There is plenty of gum copal of very good quality in Tambakka north of the 9° 30′ parallel. The traders are prepared to give a good price for it, but labour is scarce in that part of the Protectorate, and the people are fully occupied growing produce for their own consumption.

Kola plantations have been established at Mano and Moyamba of 10 and 5 acres respectively. They have been made by the chiefs, but at the instance, and under the supervision, of the Government, thus ensuring that the great fault of native planting, namely, the too close juxtaposition of the trees, which leads to the growth of a parasite, is avoided. One half of the nuts goes to the natives; the other half is retained by the Government for the purpose of extending the cultivation of kola in the district.

Kola is extensively grown both in the Colony and Protectorate. The crop was a good one in the past year, and the price obtained was a record one of £14 per measure. Attempts were made by the Government to increase the raising of fresh seedlings by offering a bonus of 25*s*. a hundred to successful cultivators. Owing to this incentive about 1,200 seedlings have been raised in the Headquarters district, and they should prove a valuable asset to the people in the future.

The cultivation of ginger, in spite of the many difficulties to be contended with, is gradually spreading. At one time its cultivation was confined to the Colony, but lately it has extended into the Protectorate as far as Mano. The production has increased and the quality is better. Efforts have been made to improve still further the cultivation and preparation of ginger, and to this end the Government has offered a grant of 10*s*. an acre for every farm worked on the improved system. The natives have, as a result of the action of the Government, become better acquainted with the preparation of ginger for the market, and prices have improved.

Several kinds of rice are grown in Sierra Leone, all good, the Temne rice in particular. Rice is not grown now in the Colony proper to any appreciable extent, the people apparently finding that the cultivation of cassava, yams, sweet potatoes, and eddoes pays them better.

A certain amount of fruit, such as bananas, plantains, oranges, limes, mangoes, and avocado pears are raised in the districts of the Colony for local consumption and for the Freetown market. It should be possible, with the adoption of improved methods, to establish a fruit trade with England.

Pineapples grow wild, and an effort has been made to export them to England, but the quality was considered too inferior for the English market.

The introduction of good seed from the Gambia Colony has revived the ground-nut industry in the Kwaia country (Headquarters district). Large quantities are now raised and find a ready sale in Freetown both for food and for the extraction of oil.

The growth of native maize is on the increase and, in view of the annually recurrent scarcity of rice, it is very necessary to encourage the growing of this cereal. It commands a ready sale locally, the price obtained being higher than that paid in England. It is not nearly so much trouble to grow and prepare as rice. There is too great a tendency on the part of the natives to confine themselves to rice as a staple cereal, with disastrous results to themselves, as in the present case of scarcity of rice.

Cocoa is grown to a small extent in the Colony, and an attempt was made during the year under review to introduce it into the Protectorate. 120,000 seeds were given by the Government to the chiefs and planted by them. The failures amounted to about 25 per cent., but considering the unfavourable season and the fact that cocoa was almost unknown to the chiefs, the experiment so far has had good results.

Both Liberian and Sierra Leone coffee are grown in the Colony. Both are of excellent quality but are only grown for home consumption, the price obtainable in the European market being too low to encourage its shipment. It is almost unknown in the Protectorate.

Cocoa-nut trees exist in the Colony and the fruit obtains a ready sale locally as an article of food, the price realised being nearly the same as in England. The supply of trees is not sufficient to enable the copra and coir industries to be taken up. The Government has tried to encourage the cocoa-nut industry, but so far without success. The natives of the Colony have a rooted objection to raise any more trees, those already existing having been raised by their grandfathers under, perhaps, missionary or governmental influence. An attempt was made during the year to introduce cocoa-nut growing in the lowlands surrounding the tidal waters in the Protectorate, but the attempt failed, partly owing to the difficulty of obtaining mature nuts to plant, and partly to the neglect of the chiefs to water them when planted—the chiefs arguing that because the nut contained liquid there was no need to water the young plant.

The satisfactory state of the piassava industry has already been alluded to (p. 18). The piassava palm is particularly abundant in the Sherbro District, the people of which have paid additional attention to it since the unsatisfactory condition of the palm oil and palm kernel market in 1908.

When the Agricultural Academy, founded in accordance with the bequest of the late Mr. S. B. Thomas, is completed, a considerable stimulus to agriculture should be expected. A large tract of agricultural land has been acquired by the trustees at Mabang in the Protectorate, where the college buildings are now in course of erection.

The important educational bearing of the Academy is fully dealt with in a later section of this report.

Other Industries.

Cattle do not abound in Sierra Leone, and only in the Koinadugu District (principally among the Limbas) do they form a large source of the wealth of the district. In French Guinea, however, they are very plentiful; but a strict embargo is placed on the importation thence of cows into Sierra Leone.

Cattle are looked upon in Sierra Leone chiefly as an outward sign of wealth, and are rarely sold, except by the people of Koinadugu, who dispose of a portion of their stock in the Mende country.

The natives make neither butter nor cheese, but they sometimes drink the milk curdled. Fresh milk is very difficult to obtain, and Europeans almost invariably use tinned milk, which is preferable to the fresh milk obtained locally.

Sheep with straight hair and long legs are to be found in most parts of the Protectorate, but are most common in the Koinadugu District and Upper Mende country. The mutton obtained from them is fair, and they appear to do well in spite of a disease of the hoof which nearly all of them have.

A small breed of goats is also common all over the Protectorate.

Fowls are obtainable in every village. They are very small but have a good flavour.

Recently some English cocks, sows, and turkeys have been imported into the country.

Horses do not thrive on account of the tse-tse fly.

Bee keeping, on English principles, has recently been introduced into the Koinadugu District with a view to increasing the export of wax; but so far without much success. The natives procure honey from the African bee, which does not encourage interference with its hive.

There is an abundance of iron in Sierra Leone, and in some parts of the Konno country and adjoining districts it is smelted with charcoal for local use and made into knives, cutlasses, and sticks (country irons). The presence of tungsten in the iron might render its commercial working difficult.

A small amount of crude pottery is made in some parts of the country. A sample of the clay used was submitted to the Imperial Institute for examination, and it was found suitable for use in the manufacture of fire bricks and tiles.

As will be seen below (p. 33), experiments in making pottery are being carried out at the Bo School.

The natives manufacture a very strong cotton cloth called "country cloth" from the cotton which grows in the Protectorate, and dye it with indigo, which also grows there. These cloths, some of them of handsome design are made in the Mende, Limba, Gallinas, and other countries. Sometimes English thread is used in ornamenting them. Some country cloths fetch good prices and a small overland trade is done in them with French Guinea, cloths and kola being exchanged for cattle and rubber. The industry has now completely died out of the Temne country, where formerly a considerable number of cloths used to be made.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed in 1909. Of these, it is only necessary to refer to Ordinance No. 4, which consolidates the numerous Ordinances and Orders-in-Council relating to the Customs Duties; the Imported Tobacco Manufacture Ordinance (No. 18) which regulates the manufacture of imported tobacco; the Immigrant Paupers Ordinance (No. 24) which enables the Government to send destitute Europeans and others back to Europe at the expense of their employers, or the Shipping Company that landed them in Sierra Leone; and the Proprietary Railways Ordinance (No. 30).

IV.—EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in the Colony and Protectorate by means of—

(*a*.) Primary Mission Schools.
(*b*.) Secondary Schools, some of which are maintained by the Missions, others by private individuals.
(*c*.) The Diocesan Technical School;
(*d*.) Fourah Bay College.
(*e*.) Five Mohammedan Schools (four in Freetown and one at Aberdeen).
(*f*.) The Government School at Bo, in the Protectorate, for the sons and nominees of chiefs.

The cost of the upkeep of the Primary Schools of the Colony, with the exception of the five Government Mohammedan Schools, is met from School fees; Government assistance in the form of attendance and result grants; and contributions from the various Missionary Societies.

The schools in the Protectorate, with the exception of the Government School at Bo, are maintained solely by the Missions.

Education is not compulsory.

The number of Primary Schools in the Colony proper is 92. Of this number 87 are Mission Schools, 74 of which are assisted and 13 unassisted by the Government.

The following table shows the distribution of the Mission Schools in the Colony among the several denominations and their enrolled and average attendance:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number enrolled.	Number of pupils average attendance.
Church of England	39	3,412	2,728
Wesleyan	22	2,501	1,963
United Methodist Church	9	697	527
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	4	291	215
Roman Catholic...	4	690	595
Other Schools	9	563	408
Total	87	8,154	6,436

Compared with the previous year, these figures show an increase of 432 in the roll number and of 793 in the average attendance.

The primary course of instruction consists of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Sewing is taught in addition to the girl scholars, who thus occupy the afternoon session. With a few marked exceptions the character of the training in these schools leaves much to be desired. The reading is not as intelligent as it might be, and a mechanical accuracy of calculation replaces, to some extent, a practical grasp of arithmetical processes. The powers of observation also are not sufficiently trained. English history, geography, and grammar, rank as optional subjects. There were 78 passes in these subjects during the year as compared with 96 in the previous year. Very little instruction is given in these subjects, and there is not sufficient appreciation of their significance and usefulness.

Manual training has no place in the curriculum, and it is hoped that its introduction will induce habits of mind which will be of permanent value in the education of the youths of this Colony.

Three thousand four hundred and fifty-nine children were taught in the Standards (I. to VII.) and 2,813 were presented at the annual inspection. Of these, 1,554 were passed as proficient. The percentage of those presented to those instructed was 81·4 as compared with 81·3 in the previous year. The percentage of proficients to presentees shows distinct progress, being 55·2 as compared with 43·1 in the previous year.

It will be seen that the number of pupils presented at the annual inspection stands in marked disproportion to the average attendance. Apart from the irregularity caused by the rainy season, this may be attributed largely to the employment of children in domestic work.

One thousand nine hundred and eighty-three infants were presented and passed. Two thousand three hundred and fifty-one girl scholars were examined in sewing and the grant was awarded on 2,161.

In the circumstances, remarkably good work is done in the lower standards, but it is at the expense of the higher standards, and the good results of early education are therefore, to a large extent, nullified.

There is no material advantage to the teacher in undertaking to impart instruction which calls for more effort on his part, as Standards I. to VII. earn the same grant per unit. Again, the senior pupils, owing to the inadequate staff of teachers, spend all their school hours in teaching, and only have a little time immediately before inspection in which to prepare their own work.

The total income, from all sources, of the 74 assisted schools, was £5,160 19*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £5,143 13*s.* 8*d.* in 1908. The total expenditure amounted to £4,783 14*s.* 5*d.*

The Government contributed towards this income grants-in-aid amounting to £1,462 19*s.* 5*d.*, a little less than two-sevenths; school fees yielded £1,038 15*s.* 11*d.*, a little over a fifth, the remainder consisting of appropriations from the general funds of the different denominations or voluntary contributions from individuals.

The system of education in the Colony for many years remained unchanged, and it has been felt that certain alterations were necessary in order to remedy its defects. During the past year, therefore, the Director of Education of the Gold Coast Colony, by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Colony and reported on its system of education. His eminently suggestive report and recommendations embody principles the recognition of which should undoubtedly lead to an efficient system of education in the Colony. As one result of the report of the Director of Education of the Gold Coast referred to above, a Director of Education for Sierra Leone was appointed. He took up the duties of his appointment in October, 1909, and the work of re-organization was immediately taken in hand with, so far, very excellent results.

With regard to the rural schools, each of the several religious bodies at work in a village possesses its own church and school, the catechist and the schoolmaster being in a few cases the same individual.

As the villages are small, it is a question whether one school would not be sufficient to meet the needs of the population, not only of the village itself, but, in some cases also, of one or two adjoining villages. There also exists a want of competent teachers.

Both in the urban and rural schools the smallness of the salaries which the managers are able to pay the teachers acts as a deterrent to many who take up teaching as a profession, and of those who do, there are few who will refuse an opportunity of accepting more remunerative employment in the Government Service or trading establishments.

These and other defects, and also the questions of the immediate training of teachers, precedent to the establishment of a permanent training class, a larger grant-in-aid, a wider and more liberal distribution of grants to certificated teachers; the setting of a standard of excellence to the Primary Schools; a general and progressive increase in the salaries of the teachers; the introduction of manual training; the widening of the area of grant-in-aid by the inclusion of Secondary Schools, and an organized system of technical education, are engaging attention.

There are four Mohammedan Schools or " Madrasas " in Freetown and one at Aberdeen, a village not far from Freetown, for the education of the children of the Mohammedan community, also of those of any Mohammedans in the Protectorate who care to send them.

The cost of the upkeep of the schools is entirely defrayed by the Government, and no school fees are charged.

The number on the roll in 1909 was 781, and the average attendance 611 as compared with 483 in 1908.

The subjects taught in these schools are the same as in other Freetown schools, but, in addition to these, Arabic is taught daily between the hours of 7 and 9 a.m.

The education given has been successful in spreading increased knowledge and intelligence among the Mohammedan youths, and has not only taught them something of Western ideas, but has enabled them to acquire a more intelligent understanding of the tenets of their faith, and to lose the prejudices, which formerly existed among some of the Mohammedans, against the study of English books. The teaching of Arabic is conducted on modern methods, and there could be no better object lesson for the boys of the advantages of good education than the comparison of these methods with the slow and antiquated system of teaching Arabic formerly in force, and still obtaining among the itinerant teachers in the Protectorate.

A striking illustration of the new methods of teaching Arabic is afforded by the début into authorship of a young Arabic pupil teacher in one of the Mohammedan schools. He has already published four essays addressed to young students: these are used for purposes of instruction in the author's own school. As there are no Mohammedan teachers capable of instructing the children in these schools, Christian teachers are employed, and there is little doubt the schools have suffered on this account, as it is only natural to expect a certain amount of prejudice against, and lack of confidence in, teachers holding an alien faith to that of their pupils. To remove this objection, twelve of the most promising Mohammedan youths are being trained, in the office of the Secretary to the Board of Mohammedan Education, as teachers for the Mohammedan schools.

Their progress has been very favourably reported on, and it is expected that when they take their place as teachers the attendance at these schools will be considerably increased.

The Mohammedan population of Freetown is considerable, the number being roughly estimated at 10,000.

One marked result of these schools has been that some of the clerkships in Government and trading establishments, which at no very recent date were a monopoly of the natives of the Colony of Sierra Leone, commonly termed creoles, are now being held, although still in very small numbers, by Mohammedans.

The Mohammedan Schools are now attended by girls as well as boys, and some Mohammedan girls can now read the English translations of their holy book as well as the original. It is interesting to observe that the Mohammedan girls are no longer restricted to the short and easy chapters of the Koran to aid them in prayer.

Qualified Mohammedan mistresses should produce results of permanent value in dealing with the infant classes, and the demand will, in time, no doubt create the supply.

Secondary Education.

As in the case of the Primary Schools, the Secondary Schools belong principally to the various religious denominations as shown in the following table:—

	Schools.	Pupils.
Church of England	2	255
Wesleyan	2	325
Roman Catholic	1	94
United Brethren-in-Christ	1	149
African Methodist Episcopal Church	1	30
Private	1	90

The results obtained at these schools are excellent and a generous tribute is due to them; their system of education has not been indifferent to contemporary life; the mind has been quickened towards social duty; and it is from them that the clerks in the Government Service and trading establishments are mostly drawn. A large proportion of such appointments in the other Colonies and Protectorate are also filled by men educated at these schools.

The widening of the area of work in the direction of manual training, and the study of commercial subjects would still further increase their sphere of usefulness.

Fourah Bay College is at present the only institution in British West Africa in which a University education can be obtained.

In 1908, owing to financial strain, the Church Missionary Society expressed its inability to continue the work at the College on the same scale as hitherto, and stated that, unless outside help were available, the Society would confine itself to the theological side of the work. In order to afford sufficient time to those interested in the welfare of the institution to devise means of carrying on the University side of the work, the Society expressed its willingness to continue on the old basis for three years, *i.e.*, to the end of 1911. A local committee has been formed for the purpose of devising ways and means whereby an institution of material benefit to the whole West Coast of Africa might not suffer from lack of funds. An endowment of £10,000 was considered necessary in order to continue the University side of the work, and of this amount £5,000 was required to be raised by local efforts. A meeting to consider the question was convened during the year by the Mayor, and very enthusiastic speeches were delivered by several gentlemen, representatives of the various religious denominations in Freetown, and it was decided that subscription lists be at once opened in order to raise the required amount. Owing to this scheme of retrenchment on the part of the Church Missionary Society, the teaching staff has been reduced by one tutor, and the posts of Principal and Vice-Principal, which fell vacant in 1908 have not been filled, the Society, however, promising to fill the former appointment as early as practicable.

Fourah Bay College is affiliated to the University of Durham, and its students can proceed to the degrees of B.A., M.A., and L.Th. The visitor of the College is the Bishop of Sierra Leone.

The number of students at the college during 1909 was 18, as compared with 10 in the previous year.

This increase taxed the energy and teaching powers of the staff, which during the past two years has been greatly reduced.

Five degrees and licences were conferred during the year, viz., 1 M.A., 3 B.A., and 1 L.Th.

At the end of the year, 4 candidates sat to an entrance examination in which all passed successfully, and 5 of the students, having completed their course, left the College.

The Diocesan Technical School is conducted under the auspices of the Bishop of Sierra Leone Diocesan Committee in England, for the purpose of giving, as its name implies, instruction of a purely technical character. It trains young men in carpentry, building construction, surveying, &c., the instruction being partly theoretical, partly practical.

The school has succeeded in turning out some skilled native workmen, who are successfully filling good positions in the Government and Municipal Services; and its value is shown by the fact that the Railway, Public Works, Roads, Waterworks, and other Departments have been able to find among its pupils men who have been able to fulfil their requirements.

The school is in receipt of an annual grant of £120. The average attendance for the year was 26.

The School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs at Bo was opened in 1906, having been established by the Government with the object of training those boys who will, in after years, become either chiefs or men of importance in their own countries, not in an alien system of thought and education, but in such a manner as to fit them to bear suitably the responsibilities which will some day be theirs. The full value of the school will, therefore, only be gauged when that time arrives. In the meanwhile, though it is not possible to say definitely more than that the school is fulfilling every expectation, there is every indication that its end will be fully accomplished.

The school opened in March, 1906, with 18 pupils; at the end of 1907 there were 83 pupils; at the end of 1908 there were 102; and at the end of 1909 there were 107, made up as follows:—

Mendes	50
Temnes	36
Konnohs	12
Sherbros	3
Lokkohs	3
Limbas	2
Susus	1
	107

The system of instruction is very different from that at present obtaining in the Colony.

It is based on nature study and observation lessons, and aims at cultivating the intelligence of the boys without unduly burdening the memory. The boys are taught to speak pure English, not the pigeon English which is habitually spoken by a large proportion of the inhabitants of the Colony.

The subjects of instruction are chemistry, plant life, agriculture, hygiene, physiology, geography, arithmetic, and Arabic.

Reading is taught as soon as the boys know enough English to understand what they are reading. No religious instruction is given, and no attempt is made to interfere with the boys' religious observances and beliefs.

The staff now consists of a European Principal and three European Assistant Masters, together with a number of native pupil teachers and a matron—a native woman of good family.

The school had, in its initial stages, many difficulties to overcome. The lack of suitable native teachers knowing both the boys' languages and English was one, and another was the fear on the part of some of the Mohammedan Chiefs that, in all good faith, the prejudices of the Moslem pupils might inadvertently be offended. A question did, in fact, arise with regard to the boys being shown pictures of living objects. The question, after being referred, through the medium of the Colonial Office, to the Moslem authorities in Constantinople, Cairo, and India, was satisfactorily settled by the Mohammedan Board of Advice—a body consisting of the leading Mohammedans of Sierra Leone—which was appointed in order to reassure the Moslem Chiefs that no attempts were being made to tamper with the religious beliefs of their sons. The object of appointing the Board has been fully attained, and the Mohammedan Chiefs are now quite willing to send their sons to the school. The Board pays periodical visits to the school, each of the visits lasting about a week and being eagerly looked forward to by the boys. It paid two visits in 1909. Not only as coming from Mohammedans but also from good types of enlightened natives, the views of the members of the Board with regard to the school are of peculiar interest.

The good results of the Technical Department have, even in the short period of its existence, been very apparent—some of the pupils most backward in other subjects being brightest in the technical department, and showing great interest and skill in drawing, clay modelling, woodwork, and pottery. The object of the manual training is to train the powers of observation, original thought, and latent inventive faculties of the boys. Almost unconsciously accuracy and method become fixed habits, and these play their part in acting and re-acting on all other school work. Its value to the educational work of the school cannot, therefore, be over-estimated. Clay modelling, drawing from the models made, and simple basket-making have proved interesting in the lower classes, and the little boys have been well grounded in this sort of work. The bigger boys have spent much of their spare time making various articles, such as chairs, tables, and Mohammedan praying boards for their own use, applying in practice the constructional principles taught them in class hours. Pottery was carried on during the latter part of the year with a few selected boys of the highest class, and numerous experiments have been made in mixing and burning the clays obtained from different parts of the Protectorate.

The potter's wheel in different forms has opened up a great field for original design, and there is no doubt that the knowledge obtained will, in future years, bear fruit of a kind that will repay the additional trouble and expense to which the school has been put.

The teaching of hygiene and physiology, and the insistence upon cleanliness in the persons and clothing of the boys, have resulted in their enjoying general excellent health.

Sick pupils are looked after by the matron, but other boys often volunteer to nurse them in the night, and such kindly attentions, together with constant daily intercourse, do much to bring boys of different tribes together, and may have far-reaching and valuable results when the boys take their place in the world.

Chiefs are encouraged by the Government to visit the school, and these visits have been as satisfactory to the Government as they have been to the boys, as the chiefs have expressed their pleasure and surprise at what they have seen, and the knowledge of the good work the school is doing has become more widely diffused. Such visits also prevent the parents from becoming estranged from their children.

The best conditions of native life are strictly adhered to as regards the boys' dwellings and surroundings. They live in their own village in native houses, each of which contains five boys, one of whom is chosen "headman." Each house has a small flower and kitchen garden, which takes up much of the boys' spare time; the households are well regulated, and the work done is apportioned with great care by the "headman" in consultation with his "men." Most of the households show great method in the division of labour, and the inmates are swift to resent and punish laziness and neglect, and are careful in seeing that cleanliness is maintained. The boys are fond of games, especially ball-games and pole-jumping, and they also make constant use of the two swimming pools which have been constructed for them near the village.

In 1909 the Government spent on the school the sum of £3,045 7*s.* 10*d.* The parents pay an annual fee of £10 for each pupil. It is no uncommon thing for a chief to send two and even three boys to the school.

Education in the Protectorate is advancing rapidly. In 1907 there were altogether 23 schools with 956 pupils on the roll. Of these, 19, with a roll of 791, belonged to the United Brethren-in-Christ Mission. In 1909 the United Brethren-in-Christ Mission alone had 28 schools in the Protectorate, with a roll of 1,017. The enrolment of the three largest schools was as follows:—

Rotifunk	193
Shengeh	140
Moyamba	93

Much good work is done in these Protectorate schools, and in nearly every case manual training forms part of the curriculum.

As regards the United Brethren-in-Christ Mission Schools, particulars of which only are available at the time of writing, the following particulars may be interesting:—

At Rotifunk, 35 boys were boarders and received regular instruction in farming. At Shengeh, 25 boys were boarders, and they received, in addition to work on the farm, some instruction in the workshop. They also assisted in some experimental work with native fibres.

At Moyamba, 20 girls were boarders, and they are taught domestic economy, drawing, and plain and fancy sewing.

At Tiama there are 15 boarders who do regular work on the farm, while the whole school is given about two hours a week instruction in kindergarten and manual training.

The Agricultural College at Mabang, in the Ronietta District, for the establishment of which the late Mr. S. B. Thomas bequeathed the sum of £60,000, is not only the first instance on the West Coast of a native leaving a large sum of money for public purposes, but is also likely to affect very materially education in Sierra Leone. In the working of the College the Government propose to co-operate. The Director of Agriculture will occupy a professorial chair, and the Government will give three scholarships of £50 per annum, tenable for three years after leaving the College, which will be awarded on the recommendation of the Professor. The will provides that the trust shall be administered in the main by those natives who realise that the future of Sierra Leone lies in successful agriculture, but the testator's desire that the Government shall co-operate in his scheme is evidenced by the fact that Government officials were designated to act as members of the Board of Management.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Colonial Hospital.

The Colonial Hospital, Freetown, contains six wards. It is situated near the sea, adjoining a very noisy bi-weekly open-air market, and the abattoir.

The accommodation is limited, and though the arrangements have been improved upon as much as is possible without actually rebuilding the hospital, it is felt that the best results cannot, and will not, be obtained until the present building is replaced by one more in keeping with modern requirements.

There were 43 patients (25 males and 18 females) remaining in the hospital at the close of 1908. 1,214 patients (845 males and 369 females) were admitted during the year, bringing the total number of in-patients up to 1,257. Of these, 585 (356 males and 229 females) were cured; 438 (360 males and 78 females) were discharged relieved; 74 (49 males and 25 females) were discharged not relieved; and 107 (72 males and 35 females) died; leaving 53 patients in hospital at the close of 1909.

Of the 107 patients who died, 19 died within 12 hours of being brought into the hospital, 12 after 24 hours, 7 after 48 hours, and 10 after 72 hours. These figures display to some extent the unfortunate tendency on the part of the natives not to bring cases to the hospital until the patients are in a moribund condition.

It is satisfactory to note that the unavoidable mortality has been reduced to about 5 per cent. of the admissions.

The total number of in-patients treated in 1908 was 980, so that the figures for 1909 show an increase of 277 (144 males and 133 females) over that year.

The average number of patients in hospital per diem was 55 during 1909, as compared with 41 in 1908.

The maximum accommodation of the hospital is 62 beds, six of these being reserved for paying patients.

Two hundred and seventeen surgical operations, requiring the use of anæsthetics, were performed at the hospital in 1909, as compared with 135 in 1908. This number is the highest on record. Ony eight deaths took place in connection with these operations.

The Clinical Laboratory has produced, and continues to produce, excellent results. It is felt, however, that, owing to insufficiency of staff, many opportunities are lost of securing more efficient clinical results, and of obtaining material and collections of parasites for the Schools of Tropical Medicine in England.

The number of recorded cases subjected to microscopical examination in 1909 was 196.

In addition to the work done in the Clinical Laboratory, a tour through the Colony was made by one of the medical officers attached to the hospital, for the purpose of obtaining information as to the prevalence of yaws and syphilis, and towards preparing a malarial index of the Colony. Some information concerning this malarial index is given in p. 48 of this report.

The number of out-patients treated at the Colonial Hospital during the year was 27,474, an increase of 5,875 over the number for 1908.

These figures give most striking proof of the expansion of the work in the hospital, and there is little doubt that had the accommodation been available, the number of in-patients would have increased in direct proportion. The records show a marked increase in the number of out-patients treated every year at the hospital, and the following figures are interesting and instructive:—

Year.	Number of Out-patients.
1905	8,374
1906	15,257
1907	18,008
1908	21,599
1909	27,474

During the year 97 patients were admitted for treatment in the Maternity Ward of the Colonial Hospital as compared with 57 in 1908, and the daily average stay of the patients in the ward was 3·07 days.

The number of admissions into the ward is the largest on record, and this is attributed to the confidence which the people felt in the Matron of the hospital. Another reason is, that although all cases are seen and attended to daily in the Out-patients' Department, the medical officer in charge of the Maternity Ward sees and treats apart on two days in the week all patients suffering from diseases peculiar to women.

The importance of this work to the people of the Colony can hardly be overestimated. For several years now among the descendants of the liberated Africans and the original settlers in the Colony, who are commonly termed Creoles, the death-rate has been increasing and the birth-rate has been falling. There has also been a regular diminution in the number of families among the married people, and an increase in sterility. What increase there has been of the population of the Colony is due solely to the influx of the aborigines—principally Mendes and Temnes—who are becoming residents of the towns and villages.

Nursing Home.

This is a building in the town in the neighbourhood of the Public Offices, and was originally a private house. Its situation in the town, and its proximity to the railway, make the site very unsuitable for an institution of this kind, where segregation from malaria and other insect-borne diseases, as well as peace and quiet, are essential qualifications.

Fifty cases were admitted during the year, as compared with 42 in 1908.

The patients were derived from the following classes of the community:—

Government officials—		
Railway Department	10	
Other departments	3	
	—	13
Commercial firms		23
Shipping		9
Missionaries		3
No occupation		2
		—
		50
		—

There was one death, due to blackwater fever.

The receipts amounted £168 6*s*. 10*d*., and the expenditure to £896 9*s*. 7*d*., the deficit being made up by the Government.

It will be seen that the firms and shipping contribute well over half the number of patients treated in the Home, and Government officials a little over a third.

The latter are chiefly employees of the Railway Department—platelayers, drivers, fitters, &c.

Lunatic Asylum.

There were 113 inmates at the beginning of the year, and 30 admissions during the year. Of these, 7 were relieved and sent to their friends to be cared for, 1 was transferred to the West Indies (not relieved), and 26 deaths occurred, leaving a total of 109 in the institution at the end of the year.

The number of admissions showed an increase of 5 over the previous year. Four patients were placed under observation, but as they exhibited no mental trouble they were discharged.

Various.

In the Male Incurable Hospital there were 78 patients at the beginning of the year. Seventy-five patients were admitted. The total number of deaths was 45, due chiefly to old age, syphilis, paralysis, and exhaustion. Thirty-seven patients were discharged and 71 were in the hospital at the end of the year. There were 6 lepers in the hospital at the beginning of the year and 2 admissions in 1909, making a total of 8 under treatment.

During the year 30 Kroo boys were admitted to the Lazaretto and placed under observation for seven days, owing to an outbreak of small-pox on the s.s. "Addah." No outbreak of the disease occurred during their detention.

During the year 11 cases of chicken-pox and 1 of small-pox were admitted to the Small-pox Hospital. All were discharged cured.

In the Colonial Hospital, Bonthe, 232 patients were admitted during the year, as compared with 185 in 1908. There were 10 deaths. The out-patients numbered 2,652, or 157 more than in the previous year.

There was a mild epidemic of whooping cough in the Sherbro District, and 102 cases of this complaint were treated at the hospital in Bonthe.

There are hospitals and dispensaries at the headquarters of all the districts of the Protectorate as well as at Bo and at Daru—the headquarters of the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force. Twenty patients were in these hospitals at the end of 1908; 428 cases were treated in 1909, and 1 remained at the end of 1909.

The number of out-patients treated in the various dispensaries of the Colony and Protectorate, except the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, during the year amounted to 20,481 (males 11,418, and females 9,063).

The following is a condensed statement of the actual revenue and expenditure of the Medical Department for the year:—

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Sale of medicines	95	14	5
Nursing Home receipts	168	6	10
Hospital receipts	136	8	6
Maintenance of lunatics from other Colonies	490	16	3
	£891	6	0

This shows a falling off in the receipts of £532 17*s*. 5*d*., as compared with those of 1908, the difference being largely attributed to the reduction in the number of lunatic patients from other Colonies, the Gold Coast and Southern Nigeria Governments having now made provision for the treatment of their own lunatics.

There was, however, an increase in the hospital receipts of £38 13*s*. 6*d*., and in Nursing Home receipts of £39 13*s*. 6*d*.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Personal emoluments and other charges	14,977	5	4
Provisions and necessaries, drugs, hospital equipment	5,217	8	0
Personal emoluments, &c., Nursing Home	896	9	7
	£21,091	2	11

The above statement shows a reduction in the total expenditure of £182 10*s*. 8*d*., as compared with that of 1908.

Savings Bank.

The deposits during the year numbered 8,744, of the value of £49,131 4*s*. 4½*d*., as compared with 6,746 deposits, of the value of £43,434 16*s*. 6*d*., in 1908.

The withdrawals amounted to £47,280 13*s*. 0½*d*., as compared with £50,584 4*s*. 9*d*. in 1908, and the total amount due to depositors, exclusive of interest for the year 1909, was £83,631 11*s*.

The system of cheques introduced in 1907 to facilitate the withdrawal of money by absentee proprietors has been found to be very useful, and its appreciation by the public has been marked by the increase of 61 cheque-book holders during 1909.

During the year the sum of £4,000 was invested, which sum now brings the total investments up to £85,661 12*s*. 6*d*.

The rate of interest on deposits is 2½ per cent. The interest due to depositors for the year 1909 amounts to £1,800.

The dividends received from investments for 1909 amounted to £2,768 12*s*. 5*d*. as compared with £2,683 11*s*. 9*d*. in 1908. There are nine savings banks at present in Sierra Leone.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The judicial system obtaining in Sierra Leone varies according to the Colony proper, the Protectorate, and the area technically Colony but now regarded for administrative purposes as Protectorate, and subject to tribal authority (Turner's Peninsula and Sherbro Island outside the town limits of Bonthe and York Island).

In the Colony proper, the system is very similar to that in force in England. It comprises the Supreme Court, Magistrate's Court, and Justices of the Peace, who, it may be mentioned, constantly adjudicate in aid of the Magistrate, both exercising in such cases the inferior jurisdiction analogous to that exercised by a Court of Summary Conviction and a County Court in England.

In the Colony outside the above mentioned jurisdictions, certain limited powers are vested in the tribal headmen of Freetown and in the headmen of the Peninsula villages. For example, the headmen of the Peninsula villages have power to fine up to £1 for breaches of the village regulations, and are also charged with the duty, under the Coroner's Ordinance, of making inquiry into causes of death in suspicious cases. In Freetown the headmen have power to inflict small fines for breach (by a native of their tribe) of any regulations binding on the members of that tribe resident in Freetown, and also possess the right of taxing members of the tribe resident in Freetown. Up to date, this power is only exercised by the headmen of the Krus and the Fullahs. In the former case, the tax takes the form of the payment of one shilling per trip by every Kruman engaged on the ships, and the proceeds, now amounting to about £942, are devoted to matters of general welfare of the tribe, *e.g.*, education and the improvement of buildings. The Fullahs are enabled to obtain a similar fund indirectly by means of a regulation empowering the headman to inflict a fine not exceeding £1 on any Fullah resident in Freetown who refuses to obey his summons to a meeting of the Jama.

In the Protectorate the mass of the judicial work is performed by the Chiefs' Courts, which have jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases between natives, with the exception of more serious forms of crime (murder, etc.). Serious crimes and all important civil cases are disposed of by the Circuit Court, while the District Commissioner's Court possesses a jurisdiction analogous to that of Summary and County Courts in England in all cases in which non-natives (*i.e.*, non-aborigines) or native and non-native are concerned. Owing to the absence of any great number of serious cases, and also to inaccessibility, the Circuit Court usually does not visit the districts of Karene and Koinadugu. Its jurisdiction is exercised in those districts by a Special Commissioner or by the District Commissioner, or by the District Commissioner of an adjoining district, if certified to be qualified by the Chief Justice. In one other respect the judicial system requires explanation: in areas formerly Colony, but now administered on Protectorate principles, the law is hybrid, because, although in the main that of the Protectorate, in certain cases it remains Colony. In these areas, the somewhat complex law is administered by the District Commissioners, and it is remarkable that although not lawyers by profession, it has rarely happened that their adjudications have given rise to any dissatisfaction.

Police.

The Police are only employed in the Colony of Sierra Leone, police work in the Protectorate being performed by the court messengers, of which something is said on p. 55 of this Report.

The strength of the force at the beginning of the year was the Commissioner, 1 European inspector, and 248 non-commissioned officers and men. Three additional constables were enlisted during the year for the Sherbro District.

The Police are now concentrated in four or five places and not, as before, scattered singly in small and remote villages of the Colony. Order in, and the administration of, rural towns and villages is maintained by the headmen of such towns and villages, who are entrusted with certain powers under the Coroners' Ordinance and other laws, in the exercise of which powers they have to consult the committee of the town or village.

Included in the strength of the force is a detective branch consisting of 1 sergeant and 4 constables, who are permanently employed as detectives, the assistance of constables in plain clothes being given when necessary.

The harbour police, consisting of eleven men permanently employed in police work in the harbour of Freetown, is under the charge of a sergeant of the ordinary police, and two police constables are also attached to the harbour police to assist him. The sergeant has to board all steamers, and he is responsible for keeping order among the licensed boatmen in the harbour—an unruly crowd at the best of times—and for seeing that the Harbour Regulations are enforced. He is also responsible for an effective watch being kept on all outward-bound steamers with a view to preventing breaches of the Foreign Service Employment Ordinance.

The Harbour Police patrol all the bays in the vicinity of the harbour to protect floating property, and they also board and examine any craft suspected of smuggling or of having stolen goods on board.

Weights and Measures.

The Weights and Measures Ordinance (No. 9 of 1900) has been strictly enforced during the year.

Three hundred and thirty-one certificates of justness were issued during the year as compared with 293 in 1908.

One thousand and thirty-eight weights, 232 scales, and 279 measures were examined in 1909 as compared with 1,260, 258, and 321 respectively in 1908.

A Governor's Order was passed in August 1909 extending the duration of a certificate of justness from one to two years, on account of the hardship on traders which the former system entailed.

A sum of £35 9*s.* 2*d.* was collected in fees, and 75 surprise visits were paid in connection with the Weights and Measures Ordinance.

The cost of the force for the year amounted to £8,901 13*s.* 9*d.* as compared with £8,631 0*s.* 5*d.* in 1908. This increase is due to the fact that every alternate year there are two issues of clothing instead of one—1909 was one of those years. £20 also was expended in the purchase of a new boat; £40 was spent in the purchase of a new set of secondary standard weights and measures, and, as stated above, 3 additional constables were enlisted for the Sherbro District.

The number of cases reported to the police during the year was 1,951; 1,534 persons were arrested; 1,211 were convicted, and 323 discharged. Of the number of persons convicted, 70 were for assault, 527 were for larceny of various kinds, while only 80 were for drunkenness.

The great number of cases of larceny is attributed to a bad season and to the fact that prices for food were very high.

Of the 80 convictions for drunkenness, Freetown was responsible for 77; and taking into consideration the size of the town and the number and variety of the inhabitants the number is very small.

The spread of Mohammedanism, which is again referred to on p. 56 of this Report, is, without a doubt, largely responsible for these very satisfactory figures in regard to drunkenness.

One of the many duties of the police is to issue licences for dogs and to destroy unclaimed dogs. 425 licences were issued in 1909, being an increase of 7 per cent. over 1908. 653 unclaimed dogs were destroyed during the year, being an increase of 21 per cent. over the number destroyed in 1908. These figures relate to Freetown only, and the destruction of unclaimed dogs by the police is a great service to the inhabitants of the town, as the unnecessary barking of the dogs at night is a feature of the town, and, in some parts of it, makes a good night's rest well nigh impossible.

The police also have charge of the non-urban Crown lands in the Freetown police district, and the work in connection therewith is considerable. The Public Works Department has charge of urban Crown lands.

Two hundred and ninety-seven fresh finger-prints have been taken and classified. This brings the total of registered finger-prints up to 1,239.

There were 10 fires during the year in Freetown. Most of these were of small dwelling houses, but one destroyed the Princess Christian Mission Hospital, which was insured for £2,000.

The fire brigade consists of 36 men under a native superintendent, and is under the sole control of the Municipality. It is a volunteer brigade, the men receiving 6*d.* a drill, of which there are about two a week.

The appliances consist of a hose-cart, standpipes, and hose.

There are no steam or manual engines, the firemen depending entirely on the water main hydrants, of which there are about 285 distributed in various parts of the town.

There is a plentiful supply of water for about 10 months in the year, and a fair supply during the remaining period.

The pressure of water is good in the lower parts of the town, but in the higher parts it is not so good—a fact to be taken into consideration where artificial pressure cannot be brought to bear on the water from the hose.

The military invariably turn out to serious fires, and, when necessary, bring their manual engine and other appliances to assist the local fire brigade. The valuable help they always render on these occasions makes their presence welcomed at fires.

The majority of houses in Freetown are covered with thatch, and the wonder is that more fires do not occur, and that more damage is not caused when they do occur—although, when destroyed, houses are rebuilt, the use of corrugated iron roofs is insisted upon, and the number of houses with this class of roof is increasing steadily year by year.

The Gaol.

The daily average number of prisoners was 209 males and 5 females.

The general health of the inmates was good. During the year there was a slight epidemic of beri-beri, which attacked six prisoners. Four died of the disease and two recovered.

Eleven executions took place within the precincts of the gaol, the greater number of the condemned prisoners having been sent from the Protectorate.

A temporary block of cells has been built on the site of the old Botanic Gardens at the western end of the town. It is intended later on to build the new permanent prison on this site. The temporary cells will be occupied by 150 prisoners. This transference of prisoners will greatly relieve the congestion in the old prison, which has, at times, been dangerously overcrowded.

The prisoners for the first time in the history of the Colony will know what quarrying stone is, and it is believed that the labour which they will have to undergo, which is hard in nature as well as in name, will act more as a deterrent to crime than ordinary imprisonment has succeeded in doing.

The conduct of the prisoners was on the whole good, especially when it is considered that they are always in association, both day and night. Corporal punishment, to enforce prison discipline, was inflicted on three occasions only.

The religious services of the Established Church have been regularly carried out at the appointed times by the chaplain, whilst the Mohammedan prisoners have had an hour together every Friday for prayer.

The cost of the department, exclusive of expenditure on materials for the manufacturing department was £3,576 15*s*. 9*d*.

The value of the work turned out by the manufacturing department was £991 19*s*. 3*d*. and the profits therefrom amounted to £396 14*s*. 7*d*. Practically the whole of the work done in this department was for the various Government departments of the Colony.

At the headquarters of every district of the Protectorate there is a prison which is under the control of the District Commissioner.

By the Protectorate Native Law Ordinance of 1905, chiefs are given the power to commit natives to the district gaol, on condition that the application by the chief to the District Commissioner for the harbouring of his prisoners constitutes an automatic appeal, and gives the District Commissioner the right, if he sees fit, to reduce the sentence. The possession of the privilege by the chiefs is of great value and is highly appreciated by them. In former days a chief could generally, when necessary, bring pressure to bear on the family of a wrong-doer, but in recent years many natives have left their own chiefdoms and families to work in other parts of the country, especially in the chiefdoms adjoining the railway. In such cases the chief would have very little power over them, and but inadequate means of punishment, but for the power to commit them to goal, should serious offences have been committed by them.

There has been an increase in crime in the Colony and Protectorate in 1909 as compared with 1908. The total number of persons brought before the magistrates and district commissioners in 1908 was 2,198, of whom 505 were for offences against the person. In 1909, 2,787 persons were brought before the magistrates and district commissioners of whom 532 were for offences against the person.

Of the total number of 2,787 persons brought before the magistrates and district commissioners 2,080 were in the Colony and 707 in the Protectorate.

The number of summary convictions was 1,873 as compared was 1,382 in 1908. Of these, 1,333 were in the Colony and 540 in the Protectorate.

The number of indictable offences tried in the superior courts of the Colony and Protectorate in 1909 amounted to 177, an increase of 29 over the figures of the previous year.

The following table shows the number of cases tried, the nature of the offences, and how the cases were disposed of:—

Nature of Indictment.	Number tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Fell through.
Murder other than of wife, &c.	14	7	4	3
Attempted murder	1	—	1	—
Murder of wife or concubine ...	2	2	—	—
Rape	10	2	5	3
Assault with intent to kill ...	3	2	—	1
Offences against property with violence to person.	4	1	1	2
Larceny	72	52	15	5
Offences against property ...	17	14	2	1
Other offences	28	17	3	8
Miscellaneous offences	26	18	6	2
Total	177	115	37	25

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony, exclusive of the Protectorate, at the close of 1909 was 76,572. The number of deaths registered was 1,353 and births 1,152. As, however, registration of births and deaths is not compulsory all over the Colony these figures are not reliable. In Freetown, where registration of births and deaths is compulsory, the figures are more reliable.

The estimated population of Freetown on the 31st December, 1909, was 39,531, and there were 760 deaths and 549 births registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 19 per thousand and a birth-rate of 13 per thousand respectively, both rates being lower than in the preceding year, viz., death-rate 22 per thousand and birth-rate 16 per thousand.

The diseases responsible for the largest number of deaths in Freetown compared with the previous year were:—

	1909	1908
Malarial fevers	119	150
Nervous system	111	95
Respiratory system	108	184
Digestive system	106	87
Debility	86	98
Circulatory system	37	45

The deaths from malarial fevers, which were 52 less in 1908 than in 1907, were further reduced by 31 in 1909. This is no doubt due to the greater attention which is being paid to anti-malarial sanitation.

The deaths from diseases of the respiratory system show a marked decrease of 76 as compared with 1908.

Of the total number of deaths registered (760), 188 occurred under the age of one year, showing a death-rate of 344 per thousand infants.

This, though still very high, is the lowest for the past seven years, the decrease being sustained since 1905.

The reasons assigned for this high death-rate among infants are:—

(1) Malaria.
(2) Carelessness in the management of child birth.
(3) Insanitary surroundings.
(4) Ignorance as to feeding and clothing and cleanliness of children.

There is little doubt that different causes operate at different times of a child's life, and until the statistics are compiled with a view to specifying the prominent evils causing death, the causes can only be a matter of conjecture. In the absence of data, the last-mentioned cause is assigned as being the cause of most of the deaths in children. Especially is this the case in the matter of feeding. Native children are not weaned until they are about 18 months old, but the natural food of the child is supplemented at an early age—a few months after birth in the case of the poorer natives—by a gruel made of maize—not a very digestible food at the best of times. This is given to very young children by the mother "drenching" the child with it.

In the meantime the high infant death-rate is a matter of great importance to the Sierra Leoneans, as, owing to the fact that the deaths are considerably in excess of the births, the race is gradually dying out.

The natives all realize this, the more intelligent also realizing that unscientific midwifery plays a prominent part in this matter.

Some years ago the Government opened a special midwifery ward at the Colonial Hospital and, at first, it was very little used. Now, however, the natives of all classes, even the highest, make use of it, and it is hoped that its good effects will be as far reaching as they are beneficial.

The general health of the Europeans in Sierra Leone was satisfactory, and the death and sick rates were below the average.

The actual European population resident in the Colony is estimated at 620, consisting of:—

Colonial Government Officers	155
Military Officers and Men...	344
Commercial	121

Among these there were 4 deaths during the year due to the following causes:—

Apoplexy	1
Blackwater Fever	2
Malarial Cerebral Thrombosis	1

There were 3 deaths among patients landed from vessels, 2 from malignant malaria (Hyperpyrexia) and 1 from blackwater fever. Taking into consideration the fact that 3 of the 6 deaths which took place among Europeans in Sierra Leone were of patients landed from ships, the rate for the year under review is the lowest for the last 10 years.

In the two previous years, when the death rate was high, the deaths from climatic causes were 5 and 4 respectively, while the deaths from other causes were 6 and 8 respectively, the number of patients landed from ships being 2 and 1 respectively.

It will be observed that deaths from non-climatic causes help materially to swell the death-rate of Sierra Leone.

The total official (Colonial) strength for the year was 901, made up of—

Europeans	155
Natives	746

Among the former there were 71 admissions on the sick list and among the latter 498.

There were 2 deaths among European officials in the Protectorate, one due to a growth in the brain ending in apoplexy and the other to dysentery.

Compared with 1908, 1909, though the sick and death-rates were below the average, was an unhealthy year, 71 European officials being on the sick list as compared with 60 in 1908. The total number of days they were on the sick list was 512 as compared with 305 in 1908. The average daily number on the sick list was 1·40 as compared with ·83 in 1908—whilst, as regards native officials, 498 were on the sick list in 1909 as compared with 245 in 1908. The total number of days they were on the sick list was 3,109 as compared with 1,787 in 1908. The average daily number on the sick list was 8·51 as compared with 4·89 in 1908, and the average number of days they were on the sick list was 6·24 as compared with 5·17 in 1908.

During 1909, two officials died, as mentioned above, and 6 were invalided. Of the officials invalided, 3 were on account of malarial fevers, and 3 were for diseases not attributable to the climate.

Among the native officials 3 died, 1 of diarrhœa, 1 of tuberculosis, and 1 was killed by lightning. The total number of European officials resident in the Colony and Protectorate during any portion of the year was 155. The total number of days spent by them in residence was 36,060; the total number of days spent by them on the sick list was 512, and the percentage of days lost to the service amounted to 1·41. The European officials officially designated as "Second Class," consisting of platelayers, engineers, and drivers, &c., accounted as usual for a large proportion of days on the sick list.

It is very gratifying to state that there was no outbreak of small-pox either in the Colony or the Protectorate. The only authentic case brought to notice in the Colony was one of the native crew landed from a steamer which had come from further down the Coast.

In the Protectorate a few cases were reported. This disease, which was looked upon so recently as in 1907, as an "annually recurrent disease and which usually makes its appearance in the dry season" appears to be gradually disappearing from Sierra Leone.

Vaccination has been for some years past, and still is, carried out on an extensive scale in the Colony and Protectorate, and the absence of the disease can only be attributed to the action the Government has taken towards its prevention.

Vaccine lymph is sent out fortnightly from the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology, and the results obtained from its use are very satisfactory. The total number of persons vaccinated was 7,443 as compared with 4,317 in 1908. Of the number vaccinated during 1909 6,491 or 87 per cent. were successful, 430 were unsuccessful, and 522 were not seen again.

Lymph deteriorates very quickly in this climate, and the unsuccessful cases are attributed to the delay, owing to difficulties of transport, in despatching the supplies to their respective destinations.

Sanitation.

During the year the sanitation of Freetown was carried on, as usual, by the Sanitary Department of the City Council under the immediate supervision of the Principal Medical Officer, who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the town.

Scavenging was carried out by the same department, with the result that the work was done more efficiently and more economically than was the case when it was performed by contractors. During the year 4 new rubbish incinerators of improved pattern, 11 dust-bins of the new covered type, and 4 public laundries were erected. At present there are in Freetown 5 incinerators, 20 bust-bins, and 6 public laundries. Incinerators and public laundries were unknown in Freetown until comparatively recently.

A cattle market has also been provided, the land being granted for this purpose by the Government to the City Council.

Stand-pipes which supply freely water of the purest quality have been erected all over Freetown, and the natives, who at one time displayed marked conservatism in the matter of drinking well water, are now taking more to drinking the pure water obtained from the stand-pipes. The reason formerly given for their preference to well water was that it had " body " in it, while the pure stand-pipe water was tasteless.

The disposal of excreta is one of the most important, and at the same time one of the most difficult, questions to deal with in the sanitation of Freetown.

The whole question is engaging the serious attention of the Government, but up to the present none of the various suggestions to remedy the evil have taken definite shape. It may, however, be stated that in 1908, Professor W. J. Simpson, C.M.G., visited Sierra Leone to enquire into the question of sanitation generally, and there is no doubt that the carrying into effect of his recommendations will have a markedly beneficial effect on the health of Freetown.

Anti-malarial sanitation has now become an essential part of the general sanitary measures, and any observations on general sanitation in reference to Sierra Leone—as well as to any other place in West Africa—must be interpreted as including in their scope measures directed to extermination of malarial fevers.

Now that it has been proved that the bite of an infected anopheles mosquito will cause malarial fever, the disease has been exterminated in various parts of the world which at one time no one ever thought would be free from malarial fevers, and though the extermination of the mosquito in Freetown will be, for various causes, a very difficult proceeding, the systematic work in the right direction which is being done must have most beneficial results.

The old superstition that malarial fevers were caused by miasma died hard; in fact, the belief is still prevalent among a certain class—happily now very limited—of ignorant, malaria-immune " Coasters."

In Freetown, throughout the year, regular collections were made from compounds and houses, of old tins, bottles, and other receptacles which were likely to act as breeding places for mosquitoes, and they were either dumped into the sea or buried in the ground. A special look-out was kept by the Sanitary Inspectors for the presence of mosquito larvæ in compounds. During the rainy season the abnormally rapid growth of weeds and grass was kept down as effectively as possible so as to prevent the formation of haunts for mosquitoes and other insect pests.

A minor improvement, which was appreciated and taken full advantage of by the poorer inhabitants of Freetown, was the free supply and distribution of rubble, small stones, and sand by the Government to the people for the purpose of filling up and levelling their compounds. This measure was the means of preventing to some extent the formation of pools of stagnant water during the rainy season in many compounds in which formerly numerous breeding-places for mosquitoes existed.

The following sanitary works, which are rightly considered as forming part of the Anti-Malarial Sanitation Scheme, were carried out during the year by the Public Works Department at a cost of £1,698 17*s*. 3*d*.:—

New drains and concrete gutters, 3,350 lineal feet.
Non-masonry drains, i.e., cut in laterite or soil, 10,000 ft.
Streets ballasted and levelled up, 7,000 ft.
Area of stone paved and roads laid, 4,500 sq. ft.
Culverts repaired and cleared, 87.
New culverts constructed, 25.
Public open-air laundries built, 4.

The laundries were constructed where possible in the courses of existing streams, and their connection with anti-malarial sanitation is that their presence will do away with the necessity or excuse for the damming up of the watercourses by the washerwomen in order to form pools in which to wash clothes.

These washing places are very much appreciated by the people. They consist of rows of masonry butts, lined with cement, each butt having a supply tap and a waste pipe, the waste water being conveyed into the neighbouring drains or streams.

Malarial Index.

The following figures give some idea of the extent of malarial fever in children in the more important towns of the Colony: the period of examination was from 8th to 20th April, 1909:—

Town.	Number of children examined.	Percentage of infection.
Waterloo	100	69
Hastings	100	64
Dublin	50	50
Ricketts	34	41
York	50	60
Kent	31	80
Tombo	25	76

Hill Station, which is half-an-hour by rail from Freetown, undoubtedly justifies its existence, and is the finest and most successful anti-malarial measure carried out so far by any West African Colony. The good name it earned during past years has been maintained. There were in all 54 residents there during the year. There were 16 admissions on the sick list 5 of which were due to climatic causes, no doubt owing to travelling or temporary residence away from Hill Station, viz.:—

Remittent fever	4
Dysentery	1

The chief characteristics of Hill Station from a health point of view are:—

(*a*.) Its marked freedom from mosquitoes and most other winged insects, these being only very occasionally seen or heard.

(*b*.) Its coolness and breeziness, especially at night.

(*c*.) Its restful quiet at night compared with residence in or near a native town, where the nights are made hideous by the barking of dogs, the beating of tom-toms (which, however, stops in Freetown at 9 p.m.) and the heat and stuffiness of the atmosphere.

It is a very great pity that it is not possible for all officials working at headquarters to reside at Hill Station, and if only it were possible for the public offices to be erected on the site, the extension of the tour of residential service could be considered.

There is a special sanitary gang of 32 men attached to Hill Station, part of whose work is to clear the bush in the immediate vicinity of the bungalows. This clearing of the bush is essential to good health, as the vegetation prevents the rapid evaporation of water from the hidden "pot holes" in the syenite rocks which abound at the station, and in which mosquitoes would otherwise breed freely.

Sanitation in the Protectorate continues to make good progress, and the chiefs and their people seem eager to carry out the suggestions made by the Government through the District Commissioners and Medical Officers for the improvement of their towns. Every year the Government awards prizes to the chiefs of the two towns in each district which have shown the greatest improvement in sanitation. These prizes, when won for the first time, take the form of very handsome swords with gilt hilts and scabbards, and the swords already awarded have stimulated other chiefs to improve their towns with a view also of obtaining swords themselves.

When a prize is won a second or third time a parchment certificate is given to the winner of the prize. The chiefs are informed that if they allow the towns in respect of which prizes have been given to relapse into their original unsatisfactory condition, the much-coveted swords will be taken away from them.

Elementary hygiene continues to be taught regularly in all the secondary schools, and a sum of £180 a year is regularly given by the Government for distribution as prizes to the schools and scholars in order to encourage the study of this subject.

At the annual examination held in December a hundred pupils entered, as compared with 66 in 1908. Of these, 1 obtained over 90 per cent. of marks, 2 over 80 per cent., 9 over 70 per cent., 7 over 60 per cent., and 17 over 50 per cent.

The five schools represented received £20 each. The candidate who obtained the highest marks was given £5, and the seven next best candidates £2 each.

The teachers and scholars take a keen interest in the subject.

Quarantine.

The new Sanitary Station, which was commenced in 1908, was practically completed at the end of 1909. It is situated near the Cape Lighthouse, about 5 miles from the Harbour, and is intended chiefly for the segregation of persons during yellow fever, plague, or cholera outbreaks.

The station contains a large barri (or house on the native model) for Europeans, 6 large barris for natives, a hospital, dispenser's quarters, a guard house, kitchens, disinfecting chamber, wash-houses, &c. Each native barri is enclosed with its own wire fence so that the occupants of one barri can have no communication or contact with those of another. Each barri is capable of accommodating 50 people.

A new disinfecting chamber for use in Freetown has been erected on the quay at a convenient distance from the landing place and jetties. This chamber consists of four apartments. A Clayton's disinfecting machine is placed in one chamber which communicates by means of tubes with two of the other rooms. The remaining room is intended for a store for disinfecting articles awaiting shipment.

It is considered that Sierra Leone is now fairly well equipped for fighting any infectious disease.

Climate.

The climate of Sierra Leone is unhealthy and unsuitable for Europeans. Owing, however, to the more favourable conditions under which life is now possible, the effects of the climate are not felt as much as formerly. A more careful mode of living, and the adoption of precautions against the bites of mosquitoes, have done much to lessen the dangers of the climate. The conditions of leave under which European officials serve (namely four months' leave in England after a residence in Sierra Leone of twelve months) also materially affect the question of climate as far as these officials are concerned.

Generally speaking, the climate of the Protectorate is healthier than that of the low-lying districts along the coast. This is especially the case in the hilly country which forms a large part of the Koinadugu District and the Konnoh section of the railway district.

There are only two seasons—the wet and the dry—the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The commencement and close of the rainy season are marked by the occurrence of tornadoes, which are very violent thunderstorms accompanied by a very strong wind. They do not last long and seldom do much damage, except in the Karene District, where, owing to the presence of iron in great quantities in the ground, houses frequently are destroyed by lightning.

The temperature in Sierra Leone varies very little from day to day. The average daily temperature is less in the middle of the rains than at any other time of the year, though the daily range of temperature is least at that time and coincides with the maximum humidity of the air.

The minimum humidity is reached at the end of March or beginning of April, a good deal of the moisture in the air being absorbed by the dry harmattan wind, which blows intermittently from December to March. This is a dry easterly breeze bringing with it a fine impalpable dust from the Sahara.

During the year under review, the greatest variation recorded in Freetown in 24 hours was 27° on the 15th February, the smallest variation being 5° on July 29th.

The lowest temperature of the whole year was 67° on 27th July; the highest 99·4° on 12th February.

At Hill Station, the maximum temperature never exceeds 81° in the house. It is often as low as 70° and, in the early mornings, falls to 67°.

The months of greatest mean temperature were January 89°, February 90°, March 91°, April 89°, and May 90°. Those of the lowest mean temperature, June and July 71°, August and September 72°, and October 71°.

At Bo the highest recorded temperature was 99·2°, in March, and the lowest 59·2° in December. The mean maximum shade temperature for the year was 88·2°.

The barometer varies even less than the thermometer in these latitudes, the variation being so slight as to render unnecessary the publishing of the daily readings, except for the information of scientists.

The greatest variation during the year was ·517, the highest reading being in June, 29·998; and the lowest in January, 29·481.

The violent thunderstorms that are so prevalent during the months of April and May, September, and October make no appreciable difference to the pressure of the atmosphere as recorded by the barometer.

The total rainfall during the year was 139·97 inches as compared with 142·89 inches in 1908.

The greatest rainfall for one month was 38·96 inches during August, when as much as 5·24 inches fell in one day. Although the total was less than that of 1908, the number of days on which rain fell was considerably more, there not being one single month wholly without rain, whereas in the previous year no rain fell during the months of December, January, and February.

Rain fell on 189 days during the year as compared with 151 in 1908.

The following table gives the number of days on which rain fell during the different months of the year under review:—

January	2
February	2
March	8
April	6
May	21
June	23
July	29
August	29
September	26
October	23
November	16
December	4
	189

The wettest months are July and August, the averages for these months being 38·72 and 37·36 for the last five years.

As is to be expected, the rainfall diminishes the further the point of reference is from the coast; but even in the north of the Protectorate, the average annual rainfall is about 100 inches. At Bo 119·27 inches were registered in 1909.

The prevailing wind during the dry season (November to April) is from the north-east, while during the rainy season it is from the south-west.

It may be interesting to those who live in higher latitudes to know that the length of the day in Sierra Leone from sunrise to sunset varies only to the extent of 1 hour 8 minutes during the year.

The shortest day (or days, as the very slight variation makes them of practically the same length for about two weeks) contains only 11 hours 30 minutes, and this is the case from December 16th to January 1st. The longest days are from June 1st to July 1st, and during this period the length is 12 hours 38 minutes.

The days apparently lengthen more quickly in January than at any other time, the sun setting almost a minute later every day during this month, whereas during other months the difference is only 2 minutes, or less, in three weeks.

The lengthening of the days, however, is only apparent because the daily difference in the time of the sun's setting is proportionate to the difference in the time of sunrise, and in reality the very gradual variation in the length of the day continues uniform during the whole year.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The total revenue collected at the Post Office and Savings Bank Department for the year amounted to £13,830 12*s*. 7*d*. as compared with £12,529 11*s*. 10*d*. in 1908. Of this sum £1,984 18*s*. 11*d*. was for Customs Duty on parcels as compared with £1,874 12*s*. 4*d*. in 1908.

The expenditure, including interest paid to savings bank depositors, amounted to £11,781 7*s*. 11*d*. as compared with £10,761 6*s*. in 1908.

The total number of postal articles and parcels handled during the year amounted to 1,328,923 as compared with 1,293,646 in 1908, and was made up as follows:—

Letters	877,853
Post Cards	91,427
Newspapers and Books	326,258
Total Postal Articles ...	1,295,538
Parcels	33,385
	1,328,923

The increase over the number for 1908 is, it will be seen, 35,277. Of this number 32,339 were purely postal articles, that is, not parcels.

Of the 1,295,538 postal articles handled, 149,020 passed through the registration branch of the department. This number shows an increase of 12,128 over that for 1908.

The following is a statement of the postal articles and parcels received and despatched during the year from and to the places named:—

	Received.	Despatched.
United Kingdom	396,943	235,381
Other West African Colonies and Countries	175,649	151,832
Postal Districts in the Colony and Protectorate	172,379	192,547
	744,971	579,760

There were 21,005 parcels received and 4,149 parcels despatched beyond the limits of the Colony, and 8,231 parcels received from and sent to the several post offices in the Colony, making a total of 33,385, and being an increase of 2,938 parcels over the number handled in 1908.

Of the 25,154 parcels dealt with in the external service, 15,753 of the value of £17,511 0*s*. 5*d*. were received from, and 1,996, of the value of £2,787 10*s*. 3*d*., despatched to, the United Kingdom, and 5,232 of the value of £4,165 11*s*. were received from, and 2,153 of the value of £1,362 1*s*. 7*d*. despatched to, the other West African Colonies and countries.

The value of the parcels received from and sent to the several post offices in the Colony amounted to £6,206 6*s*. 8*d*.

The total value of the parcels handled by the postal department during the year amounted to £32,032 9*s*. 10*d*.

The great disproportion between the number of parcels received from, and the number sent to, the United Kingdom may be explained by the fact that the Sierra Leoneans, to a large extent, import their clothes from the tailors in England, whose advertisements—with self measurement forms—come under their notice. This applies particularly to the men who, as a class, are extremely well and stylishly dressed. Many of the Sierra Leonean ladies also send to England and Paris for their dresses.

The disproportion between the number of parcels received from and sent to the other West African colonies and countries is due to some extent to the large importation of country cloths from Lagos. These cloths are sold extensively in Freetown.

12,811 money orders, of the value of £110,198 18*s*. 3*d*. were issued and paid during the year as compared with 12,130, of the value of £111,354 9*s*. 8*d*. in 1908. Of this number 5,534, of the value of £44, 977 10*s*. 3*d*., were received within the Colony, and 1,056, of the value of £7,413 1*s*. 2*d*., were received from beyond the limits of the Colony.

There were 4,077 orders, of the value of £29,654 9*s*., sent to, and 395 orders, of the value of £3,472 6*s*. 4*d*., received from, the United Kingdom; and 579 orders, of the value of £4,186 8*s*. 5*d*., sent to, and 661 orders, of the value of £3,940 14*s*. 10*d*., received from, the other West African colonies and countries.

There were 5,534 orders, of the value of £44,977 10*s*. 3*d*., received from, and 1,565 orders, of the value of £23,967 9*s*. 5*d*., sent to, the several offices in the Colony and Protectorate.

48,062 postal orders, of the value of £27,874 9*s*. 4*d*., were dealt with during the year, as compared with 40,511, of the value of £24,114 1*s*. 8*d*., dealt with in 1908. 28,571 orders, of the value of £15,177 5*s*. 6*d*., were sold, as compared with 24,936, of the value of £13,973 18*s*., sold in 1908, and 19,491 orders, of the value of £12,697 3*s*. 10*d*., were paid, as compared with 15,575 orders, of the value of £10,140 3*s*. 8*d*., paid in 1908.

Cable communication with Europe and other parts of the world is maintained by means of the African Direct Telegraph Company's lines. The rate per word between Freetown and the United Kingdom is 3*s*. 6*d*., with the Gambia 1*s*., Gold Coast 1*s*. 2*d*., and Southern and Northern Nigeria 1*s*. 10*d*. Messages may also be despatched over the Spanish and French Government lines via Conakry, Dakar, St. Louis, and Cadiz.

The inland telegraph service is in charge of the railway department. The inland telegraph consists of two lines—one extending along the railway from Freetown to Baiima, a distance of 220¼ miles, and the other running from Mano, on the railway, to Bendu in the Sherbro District, a distance of 72 miles, from which place telegrams are carried to Bonthe and York Island and vice versa by boat.

Telegrams from any station in the Colony or Protectorate can be sent to any part of the world through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

The rate for local telegrams is sixpence for 12 words, and a halfpenny for every additional word.

During the year a telegraph line was opened by the military from Songo Town to Port Lokko and Mabanta.

The revenue derived during the year from telegrams amounted to £1,297 which is an increase of £67 over that of 1908.

IX.—PROTECTORATE.

House Tax.

Every year the system of registration for purposes of house tax collection becomes more satisfactory and efficient. The granting of a rebate of 5 per cent. to chiefs on the tax of their chiefdoms has had good results, and this practice, together with the recently introduced tax-card, or receipt, which is now given to each individual taxpayer to attach to the wall of his house, has done much to remove the desire to evade payment. The tax-card has also another merit, in that it tends to prevent the overcrowding in houses, for it is probable that in the case where two families inhabit one house, the man who has the card will make the man lodging with him feel his dependence to such an extent that the latter will prefer in future to return to the native custom of living in a separate house.

When the tax was originally imposed, cases frequently occurred in which chiefs oppressed the people by exacting amounts in excess of the tax, or in other cases, by not accounting to the Government for the whole amount which they had collected.

These defects have now been rendered impossible by the privilege granted to each individual taxpayer to pay his tax, if he wishes it, not through the chief, but directly to the District Commissioner in the chief's presence. This privilege has been largely taken advantage of by headmen and sub-chiefs.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been a steady increase in the Protectorate house tax receipts during the last five years. The figures for the years 1905-1909 are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1905	38,553	10	0
1906	40,947	5	0
1907	43,034	15	0
1908	45,297	5	0
1909	47,580	15	0

Court Messengers.

The Court Messenger force was reorganised in 1907, and is rapidly becoming a very serviceable body. It is composed of picked men nominated by the chiefs, and thus forms a valuable link between the Government and the native tribal administration. A grant of £1 per man is being made to chiefs for each year's satisfactory service done by their nominees; the peculiar value of the payment being that not only do the Government and the chiefs thus work together for the good of the district, but there is also an additional guarantee for the good behaviour of the men in the fact that their own people derive an advantage from it. The strength of the Court Messengers in 1909 was 210.

Land Tenure.

The position of the Sierra Leoneans trading in the Protectorate has now been put on a mutually satisfactory basis. The

Sierra Leoneans residing in Protectorate towns occupy their lots by the consent of the local chiefs, in token of which they pay to them an annual due of £1, or if residing in a town adjacent to an improved road, £1 10*s*. In return they are entitled to the same protection and "friendly offices" from the chiefs as these give to their own people.

The land in the Protectorate is regarded as belonging unreservedly and entirely to the people of the tribe, for whose benefit it is administered by the chief and his advisers. It is not granted or leased by the Government.

The chief, with the assent of his advisers, is empowered to grant leases of land both for trade and agricultural purposes. In the former case, where permanent buildings are erected, the arrangement by which the land is leased must be by deed, such deed stating the annual consideration to be paid to the chief, and being only valid if attested before the District Commissioner.

In the case of agricultural land, if the area does not exceed 50 acres the consent of the District Commissioner to the lease is necessary except where the terms of the tenure are prescribed by law; where the area exceeds 50 acres and does not exceed 5,000 acres, the consent of the Governor is required; if the area exceeds 5,000 acres the consent of the Secretary of State must be obtained. The sole consideration affecting the consent in all cases is the benefit of the people for whom the chief and principal men act as trustees. Under no circumstances can a chief be forced to alienate land against his will, nor can a chief alienate any of the land of the tribe for his own benefit against the wishes of his people.

Spread of Mohammedanism.

Mohammedanism is the professed religion of a large part of the population of Sierra Leone, and it is gaining ground daily.

In the census of 1861 the whole Mohammedan population of the Colony of Sierra Leone was given at 1,774; now the number is estimated at 10,000 in Freetown alone.

Mohammedanism is supposed to have been introduced into Sierra Leone about 1790 by some Foulah Muslims who came on a visit to Sierra Leone, and, since then, it has been rapidly spreading, not only all over the Colony, but also over the Protectorate.

The work of conversion is carried on by means of immigrant traders and Moslem missionaries coming into Sierra Leone from the district to the north and north-west. It is impossible to give a numerical estimate of the Mohammedan population of the Protectorate, but there is no doubt that the religion is steadily gaining the ascendancy there, in spite of all the other influences at work.

There are 7 mosques and 4 Government-aided schools in Freetown, 1 is at Aberdeen. The schools are specially organised for developing Western education among the Mohammedans.

Besides these, there are to be found, here and there, religious schools kept by private individuals in which Arabic only is taught.

In the outlying districts and some parts of the Protectorate the observances of Mohammedanism are in great measure mixed up with pagan rites; this is because, in many cases, professing Mohammedans are very imperfectly acquainted with the doctrines of their nominal faith.

Among the tribes in the Protectorate, the Mandingoes and Susus are the most pronounced Mohammedans.

The spread of Mohammedanism is responsible for a remarkable decrease in the amount of spirits consumed in those districts into which it has penetrated, and abstinence from spirituous liquor is readily observed by even those nominal Mohammedans who know little else of the laws of Islam.

Game.

Many species of wild animals are found in the Protectorate, including elephant, hippopotamus, African buffalo, leopard, warthog, waterbuck, cobus kob, congo, duiker, oribi, many kinds of bush cats, etc.

Some of these, however, are rare. Guinea fowl and bush fowl —the latter akin to the partridge—are plentiful.

Only two elephants or hippopotamus may be shot by each holder of a licence during one year; the elephants as a rule carry small ivory, but tusks of 100 lbs. have occasionally been obtained. The best months for shooting are from April to June. The big game licence is £25 per annum. Officials resident in Sierra Leone and officers of the garrison pay £5.

The following game has been report as shot during the year by holders of licences:—

Elephants	8
Bush cows	10
Antelopes	18
Duiker	5
Cobus kob	16
Hippopotamus	3
Waterbuck	2

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Communications.

(A) *Railways and Tramways.*

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway runs from the terminus in Freetown to Baiima, near the Liberian frontier, a distance of 220¼ miles.

The number of stations on the main line is 29.

Of the tramways, one continues the main line from Baiima to Pendembu, a distance of 7 miles, the bridge over the river Mauwa being a very fine one.

The other runs from Boia Station, 63 miles from Freetown, in a north-easterly direction to the Yonni terminus, 21 miles distant.

The gauge of the tramways being the same as that of the railway (2 ft. 6 in.), the same rolling stock is used on both lines.

Another line, known as the Mountain Railway, runs from Freetown terminus to Hill Station, a distance of 6 miles. The construction of this section of the line formed part of the scheme for the establishment of residences at Hill Station for Government officials.

There are also lines connecting the terminus with the Government wharf, Government quarry, and the Ascension Town cemetery and recreation ground.

The total mileage under the Railway Department, including sidings, is 265 miles.

The original cost of construction of the railway, including subsidiary expenditure, was £1,014,731, the cost of construction up to the 31st December, 1909, being £1,024,064 13*s*. 3*d*.

The total receipts for the year amounted to £84,228 14*s*. 7*d*. as compared with £71,499 9*s*. 3*d*. in 1908, being an increase of £12,729 5*s*. 4*d*.

The estimated revenue for the year was £80,000, so that the amount received in excess of that estimated for was £4,229.

Deducting from the total receipts the amounts received in respect of Government transport, it will be found that the cash receipts for the year amount in round figures to £76,881 as compared with £63,122 in 1908.

The total expenditure on revenue account, including capital works, amounted to £81,086 as compared with £81,694 for 1908, being a decrease of £608.

A sum of £12,519 was spent during the year on capital works. If this sum be deducted from the total expenditure, the sum for the net working expenses will be £68,567 6*s*. 6*d*. as compared with £65,011 15*s*. 4*d*. in 1908, showing an increase of £3,555 11*s*. 2*d*., representing 81·4 per cent. of the total receipts as compared with 90·92 per cent. in 1908.

The following statement shows the allocation of the working expenses:—

	£
Way and Works	21,320
Locomotive	23,925
Traffic	12,039
General	7,223
Tramways	4,060
	£68,567

The total number of passengers carried during the year was 323,412, being an increase of 21,336 over that for 1908.

45,340 tons of goods were carried during the year. No comparison can be made in this respect with 1908, as the figures for that year are not available.

255,044 train miles were run in 1909, being an increase of 10,379 over those for 1908.

The total receipts for the main line amounted to £80,940, or £12,248 over those for 1908. The total receipts for the Mountain Railway amounted to £2,133, or £168 over those for 1908; and the expenditure amounted to £3,404 as compared with £3,844 in 1908.

The receipts per train mile were 6*s.* 7·24*d.* as compared with 5*s.* 9·89*d.* in 1908.

The expenditure per train mile was 6*s.* 4·29*d.* as compared with 6*s.* 1·08*d.* in 1908, being an increase of 3·21*d.*

The balance of total receipts over working expenses amounted to £15,661 8*s.* 1*d.* as compared with £6,487 13*s.* 11*d.* for 1908, being an increase of £9,173 14*s.* 1*d.*

The gross expenses per open mile amounted to £317 18*s.* 9·88*d.* as compared with £348 0*s.* 1·2*d.* in 1908, or a decrease of £30 1*s.* 3·42*d.*

The working expenses per open mile amounted to £270 3*s.* 6·35*d.* as compared with £287 19*s* 1·72*d.* in 1908, or a decrease of £17 15*s.* 7·37*d.* The working expenses per train mile amounted to 5*s.* 4·83*d.* as compared with 5*s.* 1·22*d.* in 1908, or an increase of 3·61*d.*

The total expenditure incurred in the construction of tram lines up to the end of 1909 amounted to £59,212 3*s.* 10*d.*

The receipts in respect of the Boia tram line during 1909 amounted to £775 and the expenditure to £3,865; and the receipts in respect of the Pendembu tram line amounted in 1909 to £336 while the expenditure was £795.

The expenses per open mile for 1909 of the Boia tram line (20½ miles) amounted to £175 5*s.* 5·32*d.*, and of the Pendembu tram line (7½ miles) £106.

During the short period of six years the revenue of the Railway Department has shown an increase of 135·6 per cent., the expenditure 98·9 per cent, and the actual cash received by the cashier 177·4 per cent.

The year 1909 has undoubtedly been the best on record in the history of the railway, and although the working results may not compare so well with those of the sister railways on the coast as regards revenue, etc., the figures prove conclusively that very satisfactory progress is being made. There is little doubt that the railway has played a prominent part in the increase in the revenue reported elsewhere in this Report.

During April, 1909, the first conference of the General Managers of the West African Government Railways was held in Freetown.

Details of the tramways and of roads in the Protectorate will be found in the Report for 1908.

The Public Works Department was re-organised during the year with a view to its becoming responsible for the construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges in the Protectorate, and at the end of the year this work was taken over from the Railway Department by the Public Works Department.

Public Works Department.

The offices and stores of the Public Works Department are situated on the outskirts of the town on the site of the old

Botanical Gardens, and occupy an area of about 30 acres. Accommodation on the site is provided for 4 members of the European staff. Very near to this site is the Government quarry, which is connected with the railway by a short branch line.

£34,156 0*s*. 8*d*. was spent on the various works performed by or under the supervision of the Department during 1909. Among these works are included:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Erection of Government buildings in the Colony (exclusive of Freetown)	600	5	9
Do. in Freetown	5,915	2	2
Do. in the Protectorate ...	2,866	12	1
Maintenance and repairs of Government buildings in the Colony and Protectorate	6,971	17	5
Do. of roads, streets, and bridges in the Colony (exclusive of Freetown)	2,382	1	1
Do. in Freetown	3,873	7	6
Do. roads and bridges in the Protectorate	3,741	2	7
Sanitary improvements in Freetown ...	1,547	18	2

£399 18*s*. was spent in connection with the construction of the Kissy Asylum buildings. A joint bungalow for the two foremen of works in the Public Works Department was erected at a cost of £1,014 1*s*. 7*d*.

The old building known and used as the bonded warehouse was pulled down, and a permanent building erected in its place at a total cost of £1,775 6*s*. 2*d*.

A temporary prison was erected near to the Public Works Department, on the site of the old Botanical Gardens, to contain 150 prisoners, at a cost of £1,793 17*s*. 3*d*.

Under the head "Maintenance and repairs of roads, streets, and bridges in Freetown" is included the cost of erecting a stone factory, and the purchase of the following machinery for use therein:—A concrete mixer, a concrete block-making machine, a culvert-making machine, and a stone breaker. Connected with the stone factory are a road roller and a sand elevator for raising the sand from the beach at Fourah Bay up a short but steep cliff to the railway line so as to facilitate its transport to the Public Works Department yard.

All the machines for the stone factory have not yet been put into working order, but the concrete block-making machine is giving complete satisfaction, and it is anticipated that the use of the blocks will be extended with great advantage, especially as they are useful for the lower storeys of buildings where the height of the roof does not allow of the overhang protecting the lower part of the wall from the heavy driving rains so frequent in Sierra Leone during the rainy season.

The stone-breaker is working very satisfactorily and stone for concrete blocks, cornices, corbels, egg-shaped drains, etc., is now turned out quickly and economically.

Up to quite recently all the stone buildings in Sierra Leone have been built of laterite squared by hand—a long and expensive process. It is owing to the existence of the quarry that building stone is now available at half its former cost, and it consequently will gradually take the place of wood as the material for the construction of houses.

There is little doubt also that the use of concrete blocks will help in the attainment of this very desirable result, as the advantage in Sierra Leone of stone houses over wooden ones cannot be disputed, from the point of view of health, appearance, and safety from fire.

The beneficent effect it will have on the sanitation of Freetown in the matter of the construction of drains, etc., will be apparent to everyone who knows how soon even the best constructed laterite drain becomes insanitary.

£799 16*s*. 4*d*. was spent on the additional works which were carried out in connection with the completion of the barracks and quarters for the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force at Daru. These included an armoury, armourer's shop, and tennis court.

Everyone coming into Freetown harbour from the sea knows of the existence of the dangerous "Carpenter Rock" which is about half a mile to the west of the lighthouse, but clear of the main channel. It has now been decided to erect a beacon on this rock, and, as a preliminary to the erection, a steam drill was ordered from England at a cost of £65 3*s*. 6*d*.

Repairs to the Freetown wharf wall, which was damaged during a storm in the rainy season, were carried out, but the work was not completed at the end of the year. £1,441 19*s*. 7*d*. was spent during the year on the repairs. But for the existence of the syenite and laterite quarries on the site of the old botanic station, this work could not have been so rapidly, efficiently, and economically carried out.

In the work done under "Sanitary improvements," Freetown, was included experimental work in connection with Professor Simpson's scheme, to ascertain if subsoil drainage would be the best way of draining the area known as Grassfields, which is on the west of Freetown, and which, owing to its position at the foot of some hills, and to the fact that it is level and low-lying, becomes water-logged in the rainy season, thereby rendering the whole area a breeding-place for mosquitoes and affecting the drainage of that part of—and the health of the whole of—Freetown.

Under the head "Erection of Government buildings in the Protectorate" is included the erection of an office and Court House at Kaballa in the Koinadugu District. This is the first permanent building erected in this district, the buildings there, with this exception, being of native materials and construction.

Labour.

Details as to the rates of wages will be found in the Report for 1908.

Future Prospects of Trade.

The future prospects of trade in Sierra Leone appear bright. There is no sign of diminishing activity in the import business.

The cargoes landed here are larger and more varied than at any previous time in the Colony's history. Larger consignments of goods imply greater purchasing power in the importing country. In order to obtain this power there must be internal production, and as the wealth of Sierra Leone is at present practically entirely agricultural it follows that as the natives become imbued with the spirit of wealth around them, they will put forth greater efforts to protect and encourage the sources of that wealth.

It gives rise to speculation as to what dimensions the trade would be capable of attaining were a constant supply of suitable labour available.

An experiment which is being carried out by the Government will, if successful, have an important bearing on the palm products industry.

Donkeys have been imported from the Gambia, where they are used for transporting produce, and have been established in the Karene District, where the experiments with a view to adapting them for purposes of transport in Sierra Leone are being carried out under the charge of a European officer (a veterinary surgeon). It is estimated that a very small percentage of the staple product of the country—palm kernels—is collected, owing to the scarcity of labour. Should the experiments prove successful they will, by removing the necessity for human transport, enable the men who are now employed as carriers to devote their energies to the cultivation of the soil and to the collection of its native products, thereby increasing the volume of exports of the Colony, and so benefiting trade generally.

Trade is also improving on account of the increased feeling of security traders and natives have. There have been very few instances lately of traders or natives carrying produce being molested on their way to a trading centre and, in the instances that have occurred, the trader or native has had himself to blame, by his breach of some native custom in the town where he had halted. This sense of security is most marked in the Railway District in the case of the Konnohs passing through Mende Chiefdoms on their way to the railway line. A few years ago, many of the Konnohs were afraid to pass through the Mende Chiefdoms, and found it difficult to get accommodation in the towns where they halted. The prompt settlement of the few cases of oppression that occurred, and the knowledge that the Konnoh and Mende Chiefdoms were under one and the same administration, have helped in decreasing the old racial enmity between the Mendis and the Konnohs, and the Konnohs are now bringing their produce to the railway in increasing numbers.

Sierra Leone is primarily an agricultural country, and, so far as present knowledge goes, is likely to remain so. It is well known that iron exists in nearly all parts of it; but, as before stated, the presence of tungsten probably renders it unpayable commercially.

The import and export trade of the Colony is almost entirely in the hands of eight or nine large European firms, having their principal places of business in Freetown and branches at Sherbro and in various parts of the Protectorate. They import all classes of general merchandise and do a large trade with the country natives in spirits, unmanufactured tobacco, and cotton goods, sending to Europe in payment of such imports, palm kernels, palm oil, ginger, &c. The aggregate trade of the Colony in 1909 amounted to £1,960,273. Competition is keen, especially on the Coast, and there is little inducement for investments of fresh capital in this direction, but in the more remote parts of the Protectorate, at the Yonni terminus for instance, there are still opportunities for men of good business capacity, possessing initiative and a knowledge of West African trade. There is a market in the Yonni country for goods of a superior quality to the cheap and somewhat inferior goods which it was formerly believed entirely satisfied the requirements of the natives. The wealthier natives now demand something better than the ordinary trade cloths and are fully prepared to pay for them. The railway extends for 220¼ miles into the Protectorate, the tramways and roads afford facilities for the extension of trade. There are several very good waterways for the conveyance of produce to the coast, whence it is conveyed to Europe almost exclusively by two lines of steamers—the Elder Dempster Line, of Liverpool, and the Woermann Line, of Hamburg. They have a working agreement, and therefore the shipping trade is in the hands of a monopoly. West African trade has advanced rapidly during the past decade, and now that railways are being laid down in almost every European sphere of influence within reasonable distance of the coast, the intercolonial and international trade between different places on the coast is increasing, and an opening exists for a service of coastal steamers of about three or four hundred tons register. Freetown would be an excellent place to make the headquarters of such a trade, as there is an excellent harbour with modern facilities for the working of cargo, and the water supply is the purest and best on the Coast.

Around the coast of Sierra Leone, the sea abounds with excellent fish which are caught and sold to a limited extent in the Colony. At present, the people are handicapped by the want of proper nets and appliances. There is no doubt that this industry could be developed to an enormous extent, and a fish-curing establishment possessing a few steam trawlers ought to yield a good return to investors, as the natives subsist largely on fish, and do a small trade by drying and salting fish for sale to the interior tribes and also for exportation to other parts of the coast. Fish cured locally to please the native palate would command a large sale all along the coast and also amongst the tribes in the interior.

The rice grown in Sierra Leone is of fine quality and superior in nutritive properties to Indian rice. No real attempts have hitherto been made to grow rice in sufficiently large quantities for European markets, but enterprise and the introduction of rice-cleaning machinery would form the nucleus of an industry that might be made an expanding and profitable one, as Sierra Leone is geographically situated in a much more favourable position than India and Burma for placing its products on the markets of Europe.

At this time it is not necessary to remark on the importance of producing rubber, and its cultivation should present no insuperable difficulties in a country in which there are indigenous species.

The increased cultivation of the kola nut for export to the other places on the coast should undoubtedly pay.

Cattle are very scarce in the Protectorate and the breed is poor. Enterprising cattle-breeders might find the propagation of a superior breed remunerative.

Manual labour is somewhat scarce in the Protectorate due to the ravages of war and other causes, but now that the natives are being tutored in more peaceful and civilized modes of living and by the introduction of better means of transport, this difficulty will be removed in course of time. Commercial exploits need not fail on account of the expense of labour.

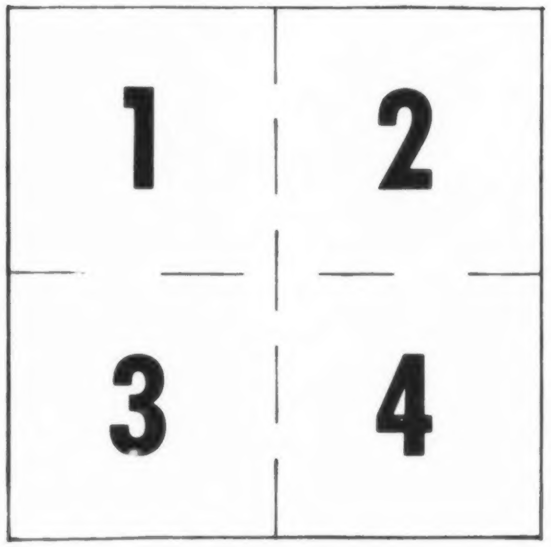
It cannot be too strongly impressed upon capitalists and companies starting new ventures in a country like this that it is absolutely necessary to send out men who thoroughly know their business, as probably more promising schemes have been wrecked through incapacity than by any other cause.

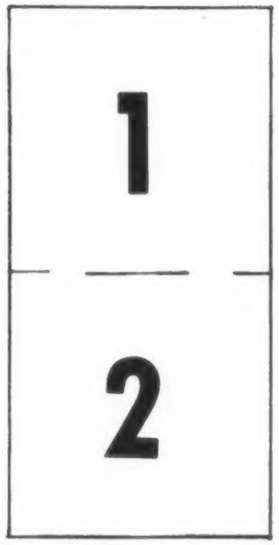
Industries in West Africa must be established upon a scientific basis, and by the application of theory to practice the maximum of efficiency will be secured, greater economy in production will be obtained and, as a sequence, greater ability to sell in the open market in competition with others. These are some of the most cogent reasons why specialists should be selected for the important work of creating any new industries in West Africa, where the climate and other local conditions, conduce to render the task of making schemes successful more arduous than in most other parts of the world.

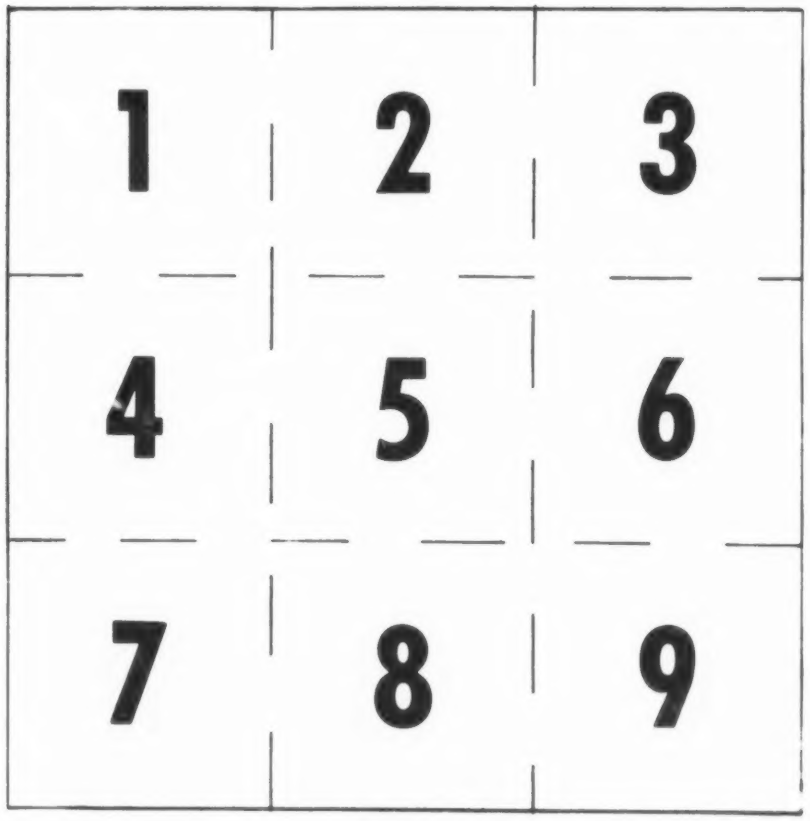
G. B. Haddon Smith,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
28th June, 1910.

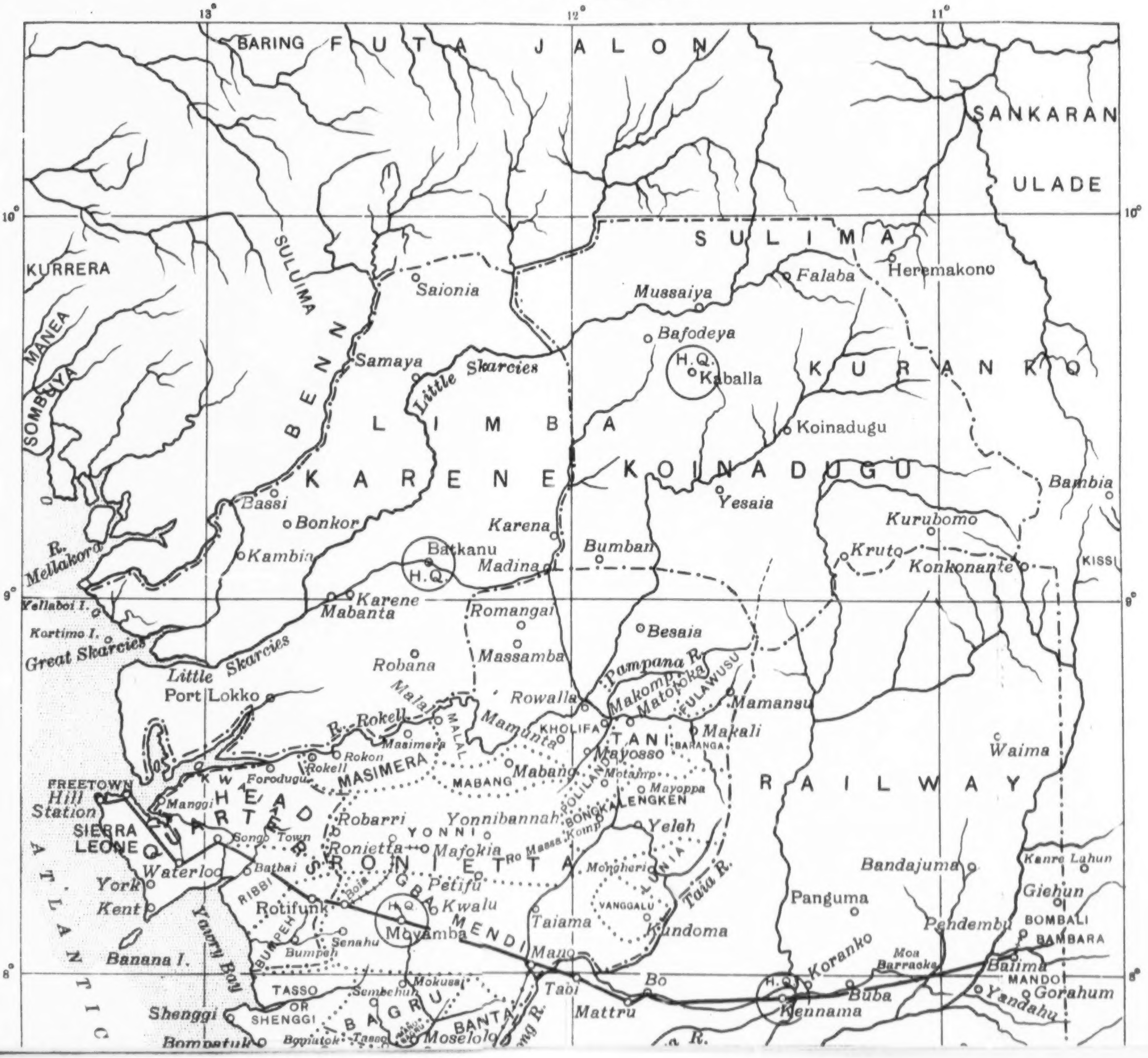
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.







SIERRA LEONE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Bafodeya
H.Q.
Kaballa
KURANKO
Koinadugu
KOINADUGU
Yesaia
Bambia
Kurubomo
Kruto
Konkonante
KISSI
KURRERA
MANEA
SOMBUYA
SULUIMA
Saionia
BENNA
Samaya
Little Skarcies
LIMBA
KARENE
Bassi
Bonkor
Karena
Kambia
Batkanu
H.Q.
Madina
Bumban
R. Mellakori
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
Great Skarcies
Karene
Mabanta
Romangai
Massamba
Besaia
Robana
Little Skarcies
Port Lokko
Pampana R.
Makomp
Matotoka
FULAWUSU
Mamansu
Rowalla
Mala
MALAL
Mamunta
KHOLIFA
TANI
Makali
BARANGA
Mayosso
Waima
R. Rokell
Rokon
Masimera
Rokell
Forodugu
KWA
MASIMERA
MABANG
Mabang
Motamp
Mayoppa
LENGKEN
POLILANDO
RAILWAY
FREETOWN
Hill Station
Manggi
HEAD QUARTERS
SIERRA LEONE
Robarri
YONNI
Yonnibannah
BONGK
Komp
Yeleh
Songo Town
Ronietta
Mafokia
RONIETTA
Ro Massa
Mongheri
TAIA
Bandajuma
Kanre Lahun
ATLANTIC
York
Waterloo
Batbai
Petifu
Kent
RIBBI
Rotifunk
Bole
H.Q.
Kwalu
VANGGALU
Taia R.
Panguma
Giehun
BUMPEH
Senahu
Moyamba
BA MENDI
Taiama
Kundoma
Pendembu
BOMBALI
BAMBARA
Banana I.
Yawry Bay
Bumpeh
Mano
Koranko
Moa Barracks
Bailma
MANDO
Gorahum
Mokussi
Bo
H.Q.
Buba
Yandahu
TASSO
Sembehun
BAGRU
Tabi
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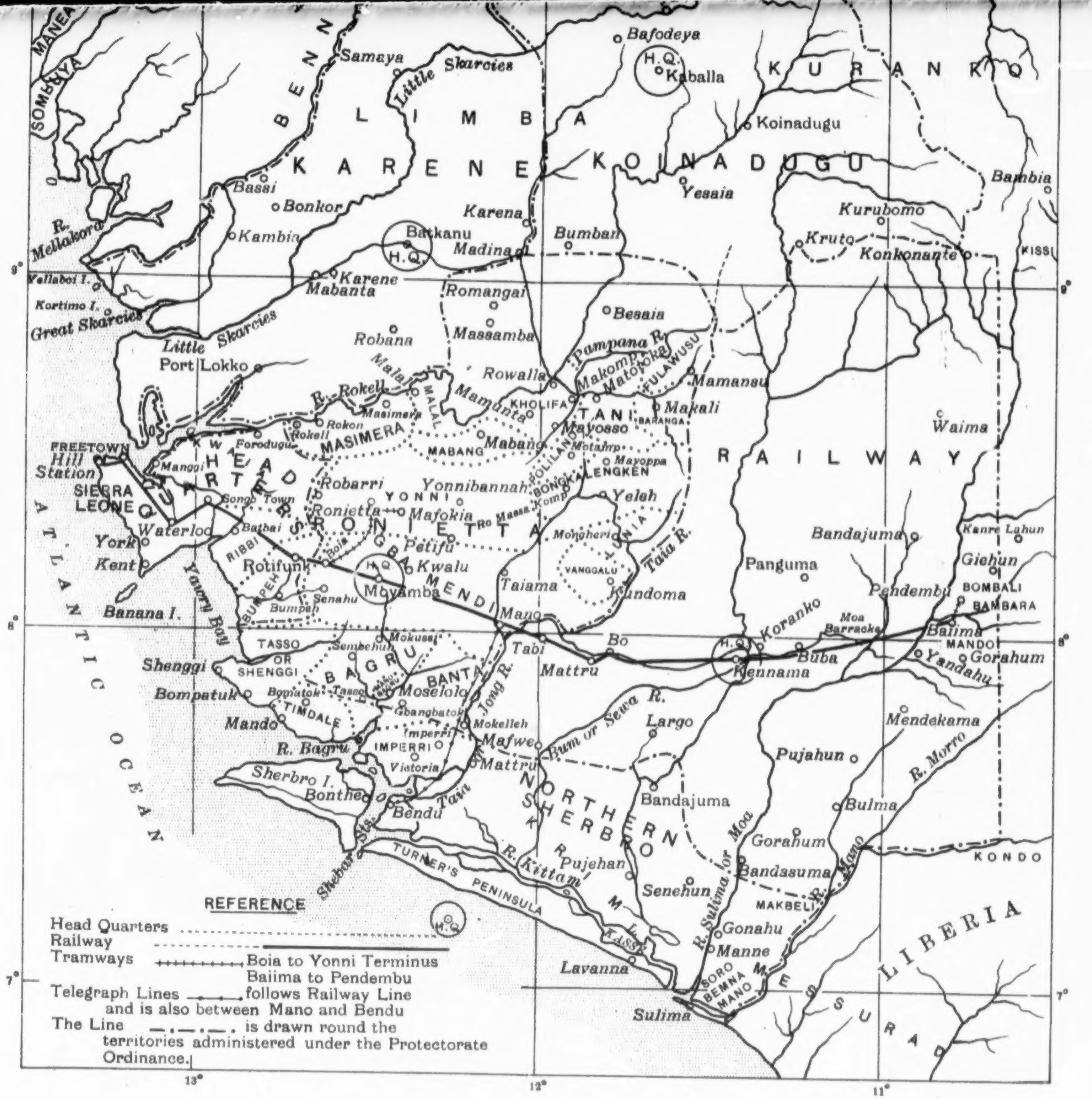
LIMBA
KARENE
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BENNA
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MANEA
RAILWAY
HEAD QUARTERS
RONIETTA
MENDI
NORTHERN SHERBRO
BAGRU
BANTA
TANI
LIBERIA
SURA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Bafodeya
H.Q.
Kaballa
Samaya
Little Skarcies
Koinadugu
Bambia
Yesaia
Kurubomo
Kruto
Konkonante
KISSI
Bassi
Bonkor
Kambia
R. Mellakora
Karena
Batkanu
Madina
Bumban
Karene
Mabanta
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
Great Skarcies
Romangai
Besaia
Robana
Massamba
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Port Lokko
Pampana R.
Makomp
Matotoka
FULAWUSU
Mamansu
Rowalla
Malal
R. Rokell
MALAL
Mamunta
KHOLIFA
Makali
BARANGA
Waima
Rokon
Rokell
Masimera
MASIMERA
Forodugu
Mayosso
Motamp
Mayoppa
MABANG
Mabang
FREETOWN
Hill Station
Manggi
SIERRA LEONE
Robarri
Yonnibannah
BOLILAND
BONGK
LENGKEN
Yeleh
Songo Town
YONNI
Ronietta
Mafokia
Ro Massa Komp
Waterloo
Batbai
Mongheri
YONNI
York
Kent
RIBBI
Rotifunk
Boia
Petifu
VANGGALU
Taia R.
Bandajuma
Kanre Lahun
Giehun
Panguma
BOMBALI
BAMBARA
Yawry Bay
BUMPEH
Kwalu
Moyamba
Senahu
Bumpeh
Taiama
Kundoma
Pendembu
Banana I.
Mano
Koranko
Moa Barracks
Baiima
MANDO
Gorahum
Yandahu
TASSO
Mokussi
Tabi
Bo
Buba
Kennama
Sembehun
Mattru
Shenggi
SHENGGI
OR
Moselolo
Jong R.
Bum or Sewa R.
Largo
Mendekama
Bompatuk
Bompetok
Tasso
TIMDALE
Gbangbatok
Mokelleh
Mando
Mafwe
Pujahun
R. Morro
R. Bagru
IMPERRI
Imperri
Victoria
Mattru
Sherbro I.
Bonthe
Bendu
Taia
Bandajuma
Bulma
Gorahum
Sulima or Moa
Shebar
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
Pujehan
KRIM
Senehun
Bandasuma
MAKBELI
R. Mano
KONDO
Gonahu
Manne
KASSI
Lavanna
Sulima
SORO
GEMNA
MANO
MESSI
9°
8°
7°
13°
12°
11°
REFERENCE
Head Quarters
Railway
Tramways
Boia to Yonni Terminus
Baiima to Pendembu
Telegraph Lines
follows Railway Line
and is also between Mano and Bendu
The Line
is drawn round the territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1910.

APPENDIX.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1909 FOR THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

Scientific and Technical Department.

Reports on various subjects were furnished to the Government of Sierra Leone from the Imperial Institute as the result of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations were made as to the further action which is required in the Colony to develop the production of materials for which there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

A small consignment of "Kowe" (*Hibiscus quinquelobus*) and "Okra" (*H. esculentus*) fibres consisting of several different qualities was sold in London, but the prices realized were not encouraging. This was no doubt due to the small size of the consignment and its miscellaneous character. The results indicated, however, that the prospects of these fibres are not promising, and that it would probably be better to devote attention to jute.

A sample of "Barala" fibre (*Hibiscus Sabdariffa*) was of good length and strength. It was regarded as an excellent substitute for Calcutta jute, and was valued at about £14 per ton (with first native marks Calcutta jute at £13 10*s*. per ton).

A sample of scraped ramie ribbons was of a greenish-brown colour, of normal strength, and 3 to 4 feet long. The product was clean and well prepared and was regarded as worth about £14 15*s*. per ton (December 1909).

A sample of "Gorley" seed was examined and found to contain about 47 per cent. of a solid fat, consisting of a mixture of a crystalline glyceride of chaulmoogric acid (about 85 to 90 per cent.) with a small proportion of glycerides of unsaturated acids. The fat furnished a hard soap. It was suggested that a ton of the seed should be sent for technical trial. The "Gorley" plant has been identified as *Oncoba echinata*.

A consignment of the seeds of *Pentaclethra macrophylla*, known as "Fai" beans, was received and submitted to manufacturers for technical trial. The seeds yielded 30 per cent. of oil and were regarded as worth £6 per ton.

A consignment of the kernels of *Carapa procera* was valued at £11 5*s*. to £11 10*s*. per ton. An offer was made by a firm of seed-crushers to take 100 tons for trial on those terms.

Leaves of *Ocimum viride* collected before and after the flowering period of the plant, yielded 0·88 and 0·89 per cent. of oil respectively. The oil contains a large percentage of thymol. A sample of the oil prepared in Sierra Leone was received at the end of the year and is under examination.

The bark of the "Fai" bean tree (*Pentaclethra macrophylla*) which is stated to be used as an anthelmintic by natives in Sierra Leone, was found to yield a considerable quantity of a crystalline neutral substance, but no constituent exhibiting marked physiological activity could be isolated from it. The pods of *Cassia sieberiana*, which are also used in native medicine in Sierra Leone, similarly furnished only indefinite, physiologically inactive substances.

A sample of cigar tobacco grown on the hills near Freetown was not properly prepared, but it burnt well, and indicated that good tobacco could probably be produced there under expert advice.

Public Exhibition Galleries.

Specimens of a number of the above products were added to the Sierra Leone Court in the Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	1908
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	1909
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
647	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 694.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 648.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1911.

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No. 694.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 648.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
2nd September, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report on the Blue Book for the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1910, which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith, C.M.G.

I have, &c.,
E. M. MEREWETHER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. V. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1910.

Sierra Leone is situated on the West Coast of Africa between 6° 55′ and 10° North latitude and between 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of West longitude, and consists of two parts:—

(*a*) The Colony of Sierra Leone, and
(*b*) The Protectorate.

Sierra Leone has a coast line of 210 miles, extending between 6° 55′ and 9° 2′ of North latitude, from the territory of the Republic of Liberia on the south-east, where the Mano River forms the boundary, as far as Kiragba on the north-west.

It is bounded on the north and north-east by French Guinea; on the south-east by the Republic of Liberia; and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

The estimated area of the Protectorate is 27,000 square miles, and of the Colony 4,000 square miles. The population of the Colony is 75,572; that of the Protectorate is estimated at 1,313,440, such estimate being based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid, and on the assumption that so many persons live in each house.

The average number of persons living in one house varies according to each district, *e.g.*, in the Headquarters and Karene Districts the number is given as 8; in the Ronietta District as 10; and in the Koinadugu, Sherbro, and Railway Districts as 5.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate:—

Mendis	481,500
Temnes	385,921
Limbahs	112,320
Konnohs	60,000
Susus	62,931
Sherbros	59,430
Lokkohs	52,147
Kurankos	36,560
Yalunkahs and Fullahs	13,688
Bulloms	5,000
Gallinas	9,000
Krims	8,500
Mandingoes	4,840
Various	21,603
Total	1,313,440

Up to the end of 1910, the Colony and Protectorate were divided for administrative purposes into the following districts:—

Freetown Police District.
Headquarters District.—Headquarters, Waterloo.
Karene District.—Headquarters, Batkanu.
Ronietta District.—Headquarters, Moyamba.
Railway District.—Headquarters, Kennema.
Koinadugu District.—Headquarters, Kaballa.
Sherbro District.—Headquarters, Bonthe.

The first mentioned district is in the Colony, and the second is partly in the Colony and partly in the Protectorate. The last named has now (1911) been divided up into (*a*) the Sherbro District (which only includes Sherbro Island and York Island, both of which are in the Colony proper), and (*b*) the Northern Sherbro District, which includes the rest of the old Sherbro District, and which is partly in the Colony and partly in the Protectorate.

There are also two sub-districts, Konnoh and Kanre Lahun, in the Railway District; two, Victoria and Imperri, in the Northern Sherbro District; and one, Port Lokkoh, in the Karene District.

The accompanying map shows the administrative divisions at the time of writing, the railway, telegraphs, and the principal towns and rivers in the Colony and Protectorate.

The Constitution of the Colony is that of a Crown Colony. The Governor is aided by an Executive Council composed of the General Officer Commanding the Troops, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Treasurer and the Collector of Customs.

The Legislative Council, of which the Governor is *ex officio* President, is composed of the members of the Executive Council as official members, with the addition of the Principal Medical Officer and the Senior District Commissioner, and four unofficial members nominated by the Crown.

The principles underlying the administration of the Protectorate have been to recognise, as between natives, the use of native customary law; to preserve the authority of the native rulers; and to strengthen the just and lawful exercise of that authority, while preventing all acts of aggression, and granting to all non-natives in the Protectorate the protection of the English law, to which they had formerly been accustomed.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1910 amounted to £424,215, being £71,067 in excess of the original estimate, and £20,082 more than the revised estimate.

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £62,993, and it exceeded the revenue of the previous year, which up to then had been a record one, by £62,889.

The exceptional increase in the revenue collected during the year, as compared with the previous year, and with the

Estimates, is due to the impetus given to trade by the increased prices paid for the produce of the Colony and Protectorate, and to the gradual opening up of means of communication in the Protectorate.

The effect of these increased prices is reflected in the Customs receipts, owing to an increase in the imports; and in the railway earnings, due to the larger quantity of exports and imports conveyed by the line.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of revenue as compared with the previous year:—

Heads of Revenue.	1909.			1910.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	189,265	2	9	226,315	3	4	37,050	0	7	—		
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	4,958	11	9	4,620	15	6	—			337	16	3
Licences and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	58,650	19	6	63,935	12	0	4,284	12	6	—		
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, Reimbursements-in-Aid.	9,915	10	11	12,324	9	0	2,408	18	1	—		
Post Office and Savings Bank.	10,175	11	0	7,081	9	11	—			3,094	1	1
Rents on Government Property.	559	18	7	500	2	4	—			59	16	3
Interest	3,725	2	8	7.698	7	5	3,973	4	9	—		
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	228	8	10	589	15	10	361	7	0	—		
Railway	82,736	16	6	99,946	3	1	17,209	6	7	—		
Tramways	1,069	8	9	2,079	3	5	1,009	14	8	—		
Land Sales	40	18	0	124	7	6	83	9	6	—		
Totals	361,326	9	3	424,216	9	4	66,380	13	8	3,491	13	7

The total revenue for the last five years, 1906-1910, is as follows:—

	£
1906	305,074
1907	359,104
1908	320,999
1909	361,326
1910	424,215

Expenditure.

The payments during the year amounted to £361,222, including £1,422 from surplus balances, being £4,258 in excess of the approved estimate, and £62,993 less than the revenue.

Supplementary expenditure amounting to £27,212 was authorised under various heads during the year, but owing to considerable savings having been effected under other heads, the total appropriation was only exceeded by £4,258 as stated above. The gross excess on the appropriations for the various heads amounted to £14,304.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure as compared with the previous year:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1909.			1910.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charge on Account of Public Debt.	60,450	7	8	60,003	8	10	—			446	18	10
Pensions	6,308	13	2	6,616	17	9	308	4	7	—		
Governor and Legislature	6,690	7	7	6,804	0	11	113	13	4	—		
Colonial Secretary's Department.	4,709	2	5	4,844	6	0	135	3	7	—		
Provincial Administration	28,150	16	10	29,579	9	10	1,428	13	0	—		
Treasury	3,273	10	5	3,732	5	6	458	15	1	—		
Customs Department ...	12,079	19	10	13,231	12	8	1,151	12	10	—		
Audit Department ...	2,698	0	7	2,578	9	4	—			119	11	3
Port and Marine Department.	1,044	13	7	1,268	9	4	223	15	9	—		
Legal Departments ...	8,140	6	11	7,276	3	2	—			864	3	9
Civil Police...	8,901	13	9	8,893	13	9	—			8	0	0
Prisons	5,823	7	0	7,210	15	8	1,387	8	8	—		
Medical	14,977	5	4	23,719	15	3	8,742	9	11	—		
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,217	8	0	—			—			5,217	8	0
Nursing Home	896	9	7	—			—			896	9	7
Education	6,525	9	1	8,414	13	6	1,889	4	5	—		
Miscellaneous Services ...	8,906	9	3	20,341	16	1	11,435	6	10	—		
Post Office	11,781	7	11	10,505	3	4	—			1,276	4	7
Agricultural Department	2,585	9	3	2,035	6	1	—			550	3	2
Public Works Department	3,851	17	0	6,790	4	5	2,938	7	5	—		
" " Recurrent	13,563	18	4	12,665	8	3	—			898	10	1
" " Extraordinary	19,135	9	3	22,029	3	1	2,893	12	10	—		
West African Frontier Force	21,641	11	5	20,633	8	4	—			1,008	3	1
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	75,004	19	8	77,976	3	0	2,971	3	4	—		
Tramways	4,387	0	7	2,649	2	7	—			1,737	18	0
Central Railway Construction.	—			1,422	12	10	1,422	12	10	—		
Total	336,745	14	5	361,222	9	6	37,500	5	5	13,023	10	4

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings chargeable to Loan Funds amounted to £1,911, the principal items contributing to this expenditure being for—

(1) Repairs to the Freetown Wharf;

(2) Erection of Barracks at the Headquarters of the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force at Daru; and

(3) Erection of Customs Sheds, Offices, &c.

The total expenditure on works and undertakings, chargeable to Loan, amounted at the end of the year to £1,188,265, leaving a balance of £7,085 available for completing any works on hand.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities was increased to the extent of the surplus of the year's transactions, and amounted on the 31st December to £218,769, of which £89,961 is invested in securities; £95,000 is in the hands of the Crown Agents for the

Colonies at interest, and £26,955 represents the value of stores on hand in the Railway (Open Lines), Railway Extension, and Public Works Departments.

Since the close of the year under review, arrangements have been made for investing in approved securities a portion of the funds in the hands of the Crown Agents.

Public Debt.

The Funded Debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,262,501, made up as follows:—

	£
4 per cent. ten years Convertible Bonds ...	537,400
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1929-1954 ...	725,101
	£1,262,501

The liability in respect of the Funded Debt was increased by £74 during the year, being the premium on Bonds surrendered for Stock; but it was reduced by £8,600, the value of Bonds redeemed out of the Sinking Fund.

The contributions to the Sinking Funds have been regularly made.

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st December, 1910, were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bonds	90	17	1
Stock	26,091	12	8
	26,182	9	9

The net liability of the Colony in respect of its Funded Debt, after allowing for the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds, was on the 31st December, 1910, £1,236,318 10*s.* 3*d.*

Currency.

(*Vide* pages 8 and 9 of the Report for 1909.)

General.

The balance to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st January, 1910, was £5,950. The revenue collected during the year amounted to £5,692, making a total of £11,642.

The expenditure on various improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected amounted to £5,850, leaving a balance on the 31st December of £5,792 available for further improvements.

A system of mutual guarantee was established on the 1st January, 1910, by the creation of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund. Officers in the service of the Colony of the Gambia are also guaranteed by this Fund. The amount to the credit of the Fund at the end of the year was £642.

Municipalities.

Freetown Municipality.

The gross revenue derived from all sources during the year from 1st November, 1909, to 31st October, 1910 (the financial year), amounted to £11,313, being an increase of £1,788 over the revenue for the previous financial year.

The gross expenditure amounted to £11,035, as compared with £9,428 in the previous year.

The increase in the revenue is due to a special grant by the Colonial Government to the Municipality of a sum of £1,500 for the erection of a fish market, intended to obviate the necessity of fish being exposed for sale in the streets.

The increase of expenditure for the year is due to £1,465 of the amount granted for the erection of the fish market being spent, and to a sum of £316 in excess of the estimates being spent on sanitation, especially directed to the prevention of yellow fever.

The Municipality is in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from the Government of £1,800. The following table shows the gross revenue (including the grant-in-aid) and gross expenditure of the Municipality during the five years 1906-1910:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1906	6,582	6,672
1907	9,018	9,082
1908	9,118	8,851
1909	9,525	9,428
1910	11,313	11,035

Information regarding the debt of the Municipality and the provision for its repayment will be found on page 10 of the Report for 1909.

Sherbro Municipal Board.

The gross receipts of the Sherbro Municipal Board during the year amounted to £1,723, as compared with £989 in 1909; and the amount is made up as follows:—

	£
Balance from 1909	35
Grant-in-aid from general revenue for sanitary police	152
Grant-in-aid from Sherbro District House Tax Fund for general purposes	300
Special grant-in-aid from Sherbro District House Tax Fund for drainage	600
Local revenue from House Tax, Licences, Fees, Fines, &c., in the town of Bonthe	636
	£1,723

The expenditure of the Board on drainage, roads, streets, and other necessary works, including salaries of staff and sanitary police, amounted to £1,450, as compared with £1,445 in 1909, leaving a balance of £273 to be carried forward to 1911.

From the foregoing figures, it will be seen that this Board is in a great measure supported by contributions from the Sherbro District Tax Fund, owing to the revenue derived from the township of Bonthe being quite inadequate to meet its requirements.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department during the year, after drawbacks and payments had been deducted, amounted to £232,603, which is £37,164 in excess of the net revenue for 1909.

The increase is practically wholly attributed to Customs Import Duties, which amounted to £224,610 as compared with £187,572 in 1909.

This increase is composed of £26,795 specific, and £10,243 *ad valorem* duties.

The District of Sherbro, during 1910, contributed £70,713 to the Customs revenue, as compared with £48,819 in 1909, showing an increase of £21,894, while the increase in the case of the port of Freetown is only £15,648.

This increase of £21,894 has been produced solely at the port of Bonthe, the sub-ports in the Sherbro District all showing decreases as compared with 1909, but it must be pointed out that Bonthe is also the port of the Northern Sherbro District, which has an area approximately of 2,500 square miles.

The Customs revenue from import duties during 1910 is the largest ever recorded in the history of the Colony.

An important feature in the satisfactory state of affairs recorded above is that the expansion has been accomplished not only without the levying of any additional duties on imports during 1910, but in spite of the removal, since June, 1910, of rice from the list of dutiable imports. This exemption applied only to the rice imported from countries other than those on the West Coast of Africa, West African produce having always been admitted free of duty.

It is estimated that had duty been charged on the rice imported from the date of exemption to the end of the year, £6,361 more would have been collected.

The exemption of rice from duty was made to give some relief to the people, the supply of whose staple food was seriously affected owing to the shortage of the rice crop, as reported on page 19 of the report for 1909.

The extent of the shortage of rice will be best realised from the fact that while, in 1909, only 1,991 cwt. of the value of £1,681, was imported into Sierra Leone, in 1910, 139,324 cwt. of the value of £75,660 was imported; being an increase of 137,333 cwt. of the value of £73,979 over the figures for 1909.

The gross amount of Customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import is given below in comparison with the figures of the preceding year:—

—	1909.	1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, Beer, and Porter	1,353	1,577	224	—
Cottons	24,741	30,062	5,321	—
Hats and Caps	834	1,393	559	—
Hardware	1,856	1,350	—	506
Iron Manufactures	—	1,882	1,882	—
Oil, Kerosene	10,079	5,941	—	4,138
Provisions	1,345	1,638	293	—
Salt	2,468	2,644	176	—
Spirits	83,416	111,887	28,471	—
Sugar	3,257	4,179	922	—
Tobacco, Manufactured ...	2,167	2,623	456	—
„ Unmanufactured ...	40,303	40,221	—	82
Wines	2,001	2,341	340	—
Woollens	1,059	1,361	302	—
Other minor imports taken collectively.	12,472	15,511	3,039	—
Total	187,351	224,610	41,985	4,726

The increases, it will be observed, are general, spirits being responsible for the largest item, viz., £28,471.

The decrease in kerosene oil is accounted for by the accumulation of stocks resulting from exceptionally large importations in 1909.

The decrease in hardware is more apparent than real, and is largely due to the reconstruction of the classification list under which the imports are arranged.

Imports.

Imports are valued for statistical purposes at their invoiced value, less trade discounts, but including cash and other special discounts, freights, insurance, and value of packages in which the goods are contained.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the five years 1906-1910:—

	£
1906	885,851
1907	988,022
1908	813,700
1909	974,581
1910	1,162,470

It will be seen that the value of the import trade has increased by £187,889 or 19·27 per cent. since 1909.

The following are some of the important increases in the value of articles imported into the Colony as compared with the previous year:—

Beads, £3,425; boots and shoes, £1,188; biscuits, £5,166; butter, £2,083; confectionery, £2,365; cottons, £58,170; flour,

£4,828; gin, £11,363; hats and caps, £6,610; medicines and drugs, £1,665; perfumery, £3,129; provisions, £3,689; rice, £73,979; rum, £3,034; silk goods, £1,988; soap, £2,358; sugar, £2,722; umbrellas, £1,834; woollens, £3,327.

The articles which show a decrease are bunker coal, £9,422; lumber, £2,828; kerosene oil, £11,347; salt, £1,801; and specie, £6,370.

The imports of bunker coal were restricted owing to the existence of yellow fever in Sierra Leone for some months in 1910, and to the unwillingness of ship-owners to carry coal to Freetown while yellow fever was existent there.

To such an extent did the local stock dwindle during that period, that many vessels could not obtain their usual supplies of coal at this port and could only get sufficient to carry them to the next port.

The decrease in lumber is attributed to the more extensive use of locally-grown wood for building purposes, and also to over-stocking during 1909.

The decrease in kerosene oil has already been dealt with.

The decrease in specie is rather more difficult to explain:—In the report for 1909 (page 12) it is stated that the increase of £112,990 or 135·06 per cent. over the figures for the previous year "is a natural consequence of the general development of trade." If that were so, the figures for 1910 should show a still further increase, but instead of that, they show a decrease of £6,370.

One factor in the importation and exportation of specie into and out of Sierra Leone is that the branch in Freetown of the Bank of British West Africa is a distributing centre for the other branches of the Bank in different parts of West Africa, and, therefore, the importations and exportations of specie are largely determined by influences outside of Sierra Leone.

Exports.

Exports are valued for statistical purposes at their initial cost, plus all charges incurred up to actual shipment on board the exporting vessel, but exclusive of the expenses of conveyance to the port of destination.

The total exports for the year under review amounted to £1,249,367, including specie £199,350, showing an increase of £267,901 over the value of the exports for the previous year.

This is the first time on record that the value of the exports of the Colony has reached a million sterling.

The principal items contributing to the increase are: Ginger, kola nuts, palm kernels, and specie; while palm oil and, as is to be expected, rice, show a decrease.

The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1906-1910, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.			Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906 ...	526,342	43,526	121,451	25,304	190,281	716,623
1907 ...	675,544	44,118	96,827	14,770	155,715	831,259
1908 ...	529,849	36,364	152,397	18,145	206,906	736,755
1909 ...	759,917	68,193	139,253	14,103	221,549	981,466
1910 ...	967,625	62,434	199,350	19,958	281,742	1,249,367

Increases in Exports.

Palm Kernels.—This article is, as it had been for many years, the staple product of Sierra Leone, and contributed 66·63 per cent. to the total exports for 1910.

The quantity exported during 1910 amounted to 43,031 tons of the value of £644,684, as compared with 42,897 tons of value of £482,614, exported in 1909.

It will be noticed that the increase in the value of the kernels exported, viz., £162,070 or 33·38 per cent., is out of all proportion to the increase in the quantity, 134 tons or ·31 per cent. This is accounted for by the yearly average price being £18 a ton in 1910, as compared with £14 in 1909.

The improvement in volume during 1910 has been smaller than in any year since 1905, and the shortage is traceable to the Ports of Sulima and Mano Salija in the Sherbro District, which ports exported about 2,000 tons of palm kernels less this year than they did last year.

There is no doubt that a large proportion of the palm kernels grown are not exported, but are allowed to rot on the ground where they fall, owing to the difficulty and expense of transporting them to a market, so that it would appear to be a matter for surprise that, in spite of the phenomenally high prices prevailing during 1910 for this product, the quantity exported was comparatively so small.

One reason adduced is that the scarcity of rice and vegetables compelled the natives to devote a large portion of their time to searching for wild vegetable products which might serve as food; but see also reason (*c*) for the decrease in the quantity of palm oil exported.

Kola Nuts.—The quantity exported in 1910 amounted to 1,511 tons, of the value of £191,942, as compared with 1,322 tons, of the value of £153,919; or an increase of 189 tons of the value of £38,023.

This product takes the second place in the list of domestic exports, and contributed 19·84 per cent. of the total exports for the year.

The exports for 1910 constitute a record, and the figures are especially satisfactory owing to the fact that the outbreak of yellow fever which lasted from May to October, 1910, seriously interfered with the export of kola nuts, owing to the restrictions placed on their importation by the Governments of Dakar (French), Boulama and Bissao (Portuguese), and Gambia (British).

Ginger.—1,093 tons of ginger, of the value of £33,288, were exported in 1910 (being 3·44 per cent. of the total exports), as compared with 722 tons of the value of £14,147, exported in 1909.

The efforts made by the Government to stimulate trade in this article have helped towards the attainment of the above result.

The area of cultivation in the Protectorate has been extended, and several chiefs now take a lively interest in the production of ginger. This interest was heightened by the increased price realised, which averaged 41*s*. per cwt. in 1910, as compared with 34*s*. in 1909. It may be stated that the prices paid in 1910 were considered exceptional for the grade of ginger which was exported, but there is evidence of greater care being now bestowed on its preparation for the market, especially in the case of the ginger grown by the farmers in the Colony, where the industry has been long established.

It is to be regretted that, as stated in the report for 1909 (page 18), uniform prices, irrespective of grade or quality, are still being paid locally for ginger, and as long as this state of affairs exists, it must adversely affect the industry, which cannot be expected to take the place to which the importance of the product entitles it while no financial encouragement is given to the farmers to improve the quality of the ginger grown.

Decreases in Exports.

Palm Oil.—The exports of this article in 1910 amounted to 645,339 gallons, of the value of £62,852, as compared with 851,999 gallons of the value of £64,273, exported in 1909—the average price per ton in 1909 being £22, while, in 1910, it was £31.

Several reasons have been adduced for this large decrease, and, before examining them, it will be necessary to explain that the palm oil of commerce is made from the outer covering (or pericarp) of the palm fruit (an oil is also made from the kernel of the fruit, but this is extracted and made into soap, glycerine, &c., by European firms to whom the kernels are shipped), and that the quantity of oil obtainable from the pericarp depends on the ripeness of the fruit.

The following are some of the reasons for the large decrease:—

(*a*) Palm oil is a staple food throughout the Colony and Protectorate, and the quantity used was largely increased owing to the shortage of rice during 1910;

(*b*) A great quantity of palm oil was also used as a medium of exchange for rice with those districts which produce rice but which do not produce palm oil, and which, during 1910, did not suffer from the scarcity of rice to the same extent as some of the other districts;

(*c*) It has been stated that owing to the irregular rains in 1910 and to the premature drying of the rivers, all the produce could not be brought down to Sherbro from the factories higher up the rivers.

The exports of palm oil from Sherbro show a decrease of 150,579 gallons, as compared with 1909, so that there evidently is something in this reason, though there are no figures available as to the quantity of produce kept back on this account during 1910.

Apart from the decline in the output of palm oil in 1910 as compared with 1909, there is a permanent discrepancy between the quantity of kernels and the quantity of oil exported. That there should be a closer correspondence than there is at present, is evident, even after taking into consideration all the factors which go to account for the quantity consumed locally.

The question is, however, a complicated one, but as it affects the prosperity of the Colony so closely, it has been thought necessary to go into it here rather more fully than is usual in a report of this sort.

An examination of the figures showing the exports of palm kernels and palm oil from Freetown and Sherbro shows that there has been a steady increase in the ratio of oil to kernels at both places, though at Sherbro the proportion has been invariably greater. In 1903 the ratio for Freetown was 428 gallons of oil to 100 tons of kernels, and for Sherbro, 1,352 gallons to 100 tons of kernels; while in 1909 the ratio for Freetown was 1,039 gallons of oil for 100 tons of kernels, and for Sherbro 3,590 for the same quantity of kernels. In 1910 the ratio fell both at Freetown and Sherbro, returning practically to the 1908 figures, viz., for Freetown, 849 gallons for 100 tons; and for Sherbro, 2,432 for 100 tons.

Reports show that, in 1906, while the ratio for Freetown was 353 gallons for every 100 tons, and for Sherbro 2,393, in Southern Nigeria it was 14,145 gallons to every 100 tons, and on the Gold Coast 22,909 gallons to every 100 tons.

In the Journal of the Imperial Institute for 1909, Volume VII., No. 4, there is a report containing some analyses of the fruit of the palm tree. A careful study of this report reveals very marked differences in the yield of oil and kernels from different varieties of the oil palm, some giving a low proportion of oil and a high proportion of kernels, others a high proportion of oil and a low proportion of kernels.

The kernels also varied from 8 per cent. to 22 per cent. of the total weight of the fruit, the oil showing a similar variation.

There was no analysis of fruit from Sierra Leone, but the report states that there appears to be in Sierra Leone only one variety of palm, viz., the "thick shelled" variety.

Some years ago an experiment was carried out in this Colony, to determine the proportion of oil and kernels in the ripe fruit of Sierra Leone, and the result agrees fairly well with some of the thick-shelled varieties on the Gold Coast.

According to this experiment, for every ton of kernels exported, 60 to 120 gallons should be produced.

The actual figures are: For Freetown, 8 to 10 gallons of oil per ton; and for Sherbro, 25 to 35.

It is not thought that the amount consumed as food accounts for the difference, though, as stated above, palm oil is a staple food throughout the whole of Sierra Leone. Its domestic uses are many, and it is impossible to estimate, even approximately, the quantity used for home consumption.

The reason for the small quantity of oil exported, in comparison with the quantity of kernels exported, is therefore attributable to the unscientific method of extraction of the oil by natives of Sierra Leone. One reason why Sherbro exports more oil in proportion to kernels, as compared with Freetown, is given on page 17 of the report for 1909.

Another reason is that there is a higher local consumption of oil as a food-stuff by the up-country people than by the tribes on the Coast, who have at hand a large supply of fish.

It is quite certain that large quantities of oil are lost by neglect in collection, as well as by crude methods of preparation. In many cases the fruit is allowed to remain on the tree until it begins to fall off. This does not diminish the quantity of kernels, but it undoubtedly diminishes the quantity of oil. The problem is to get the natives to use improved methods of preparation. The actual export, from 8 to 10 gallons, compared with a possible production of 60 to 120 gallons, per ton, shows that the exports could be materially increased while a margin is left for food.

Again, the difficulties in bringing palm oil to the market prevent the exports being increased beyond a certain limit. Nearly the whole of the palm oil sold to the purchasing factories is conveyed there by head transport, and the receptacles suitable for conveyance by this means are very limited.

In the year 1906, the Government, in order to encourage the palm oil industry, secured and placed at the disposal of petty traders in the Protectorate, free of charge, a number of empty kerosene tins to be used in conveying oil from the villages to the purchasing traders, or to the railway; and the importation of empty kerosene tins was encouraged by their being exempted from duty.

Even these steps did not suffice to meet the demand, and it was decided to promote the cultivation in Sierra Leone of large gourds, which it was considered would provide vessels adapted for the easy transport of oil, the capacity of each full-grown gourd being about six gallons. Seeds of this gourd were imported from Southern Nigeria (where the trees are indigenous), and distributed free of cost to several chiefs in the Colony and Protectorate, and money prizes were given for the best locally-grown gourds. Experiments are still going on, and in several places very satisfactory results have been obtained. The experiments, if successful, will help the palm oil industry, for, by increasing the number of receptacles, an increased output will follow.

The Government has further imported large quantities of stamped out tins, which do not take up any appreciable space in that condition. These tins are soldered together on arrival in the Colony, and find a ready sale among the palm oil producers in the Sherbro District, where the work of fitting the tins together is done by prison labour.

It is obvious that the introduction of suitable machinery would result in much saving of labour and in a greater output of palm oil and palm kernels. But the attempts made to introduce machinery have not, up to the present, met with success.

Most of the machinery is too expensive for use by the natives, and so long as the industry remains in native hands it is unlikely that machinery will be largely introduced. The natural remedy for this state of things, so far as Sierra Leone is concerned, would appear to be the installation of central palm oil factories.

The actual collection of the palm fruits would still be carried on by the natives, who would be encouraged to sell the fruits to the central factory in their district.

The palm trees yielding oil occur as a rule in dense masses over large areas, so that it should be easy so to place central factories as to avoid transport of the collected palm fruits over considerable distances.

With the development of good roads suitable for wheeled transport, and the extension of railways, this method of working would be rendered still easier.

The advantages of such a system would be a great saving in labour, resulting in the avoidance of waste such as goes on at present in the manufacture of palm oil, and in the preparation of a much better quality of palm oil than is at present put on the market.

Gum Copal.—The year 1910 saw no improvement in the trade in gum copal, 33 tons, of the value of £3,331, being exported, as compared with 46 tons, of the value of £5,036, in 1909.

On page 19 of the Report for 1909 will be found a short account of what the Government is doing to bring this industry back to life.

It is reported that all the existing trees of gum copal have been tapped to death, and it has been suggested that the collection of gum should be prohibited until new trees grow up to take the place of those that have been destroyed by over-tapping. There is but one patch of gum copal forest in the Protectorate, and this has an area of only 15 acres.

Piassava.—The quantity exported in 1910 was 635 tons, of the value of £8,842, as compared with 675 tons, of the value of £9,859, exported in 1909.

This is the first time that the exports of this article have shown a decrease as compared with the previous year. The first year it was exported was 1901, when 8 tons, of the value of £185, were sent out of the Colony.

The decrease in the exports for 1910 is wholly due to smaller shipments from the Ports of Freetown, Mano Salija, and Sulima, the last two being in the Sherbro District.

The exports from Sherbro exceeded the output of 1909 by 65 tons, the reason being that there are greater facilities of transport in that district.

The reason given for the decrease at Mano Salija and Sulima is that the price offered is less than that obtainable at Sherbro, also that the difficulties of transport are greater.

The decrease in the shipments from Freetown is attributed to the onerous conditions imposed by the chiefs in the Colony in connection with the gathering of piassava, which grows wild in certain swampy districts.

The export of piassava is practically confined to the Sherbro District, and the output is increasing steadily. It is anticipated that this year will see a marked increase in the quantity exported, as a firm in England has made an arrangement with a chief in the Sherbro District for the lease of land and supply of labourers. Machinery designed for the preparation of this product is on the way out from England.

The average prices paid in the European markets during 1910 were 33½ per cent. higher than those obtaining during 1909, but this does not seem to have affected the output.

Rubber.—The trade in rubber continues to decline. In 1910, 21 tons of the value of £7,666 were exported, as compared with 26 tons of the value of £8,079 exported in 1909.

The exports in 1908 were 41 tons; 1907, 73 tons; and 1906, 107 tons.

During the year under review the prices paid for this article were higher than those reached at any time during 1909, but in spite of this the quantity exported has been steadily diminishing; the fact is that the suicidal methods of root-tapping adopted in past years by ignorant rubber collectors have either killed outright, or seriously retarded the development of, the rubber trees. The Government is taking steps to stop the system of root-tapping, and it is stated that the natives have received little encouragement in this matter from the traders, the principal exporters declining to purchase rubber obtained in this way.

It is anticipated that when the damaged trees have recovered the shipments will increase, and by that time the natives will have realised the evil effects of their short-sighted policy; but it will be some years before Sierra Leone takes its place in the world as a rubber-producing country.

Import Trade.

The imports from the United Kingdom during 1910 represent a value of £874,943, an increase of £74,710 over the corresponding figures for 1909. The amount represents 75·26 per cent. of the total of all imports.

If the figures denoting the import trade with all British Possessions were added to those of the United Kingdom, the value would amount to £905,630 and the percentage proportions to total imports to 78·90 per cent.

Germany takes second place, the imports from Germany showing an increase of £39,474; and foreign West African Possessions come next, showing a small falling off of £586 as compared with 1909.

Export Trade.

The important position held by the United Kingdom in the import trade is not maintained in the export trade, the value having decreased by £3,651, and the percentage proportion to total exports having dwindled by 4·29 since 1909, and by 16·01 in the last five years.

The percentage proportion to total exports now stands at 14·43.

If the share taken by all the British Possessions be included the value of the export trade to all British countries amounts to £315,039, with a percentage proportion of 33·23.

The combined figures of the United Kingdom and the British Possessions are less than those of Germany, who has increased her share in our export trade during 1910 by £163,927, the total being £585,492, a percentage proportion to total exports of 46·86. The figures representing Germany's share during 1910 are the largest she has attained during the last five years, and show an increase of £353,507 for that period.

The items largely contributing to this result are palm kernels and palm oil, the former commodity accounting for £572,369 out of a total of £644,684.

The palm kernel trade is gravitating every year more and more to Germany, and the explanation is simple. In Hamburg there are large factories with the most up-to-date machinery for extracting the oil from the kernels and for making use of the waste products; and the owners of these factories are therefore in a position to offer better prices for this article of produce than firms in the United Kingdom, where the demand is considerably less than in Germany.

French West African Possessions have lost ground during 1910, and have reduced the value of their trade in the exports of the Colony as compared with 1909 by £15,863 and 4·51 percentage proportion to all exports.

Aggregate Trade.

The aggregate trade during 1910 amounted to £2,411,837, made up of imports of £1,162,470 and exports £1,249,367, as compared with £1,956,047 in 1909, being an increase of £455,790 (or 23·30 per cent.).

The United Kingdom still holds the first place, the value of her trade being given as £1,055,197, with a percentage proportion to the total aggregate trade of 43·75. But, while the value has increased, her position has been weakened by 1·45 per cent. as compared with 1909, and it has been consistently on the downward grade since 1906, the shrinkage having reached 10·91 per cent. in 1910.

Germany follows next with a value of £720,121 and a share of 29·86 per cent., which has increased from 21·29 per cent. to 29·86 per cent. in five years, and, although the aggregate trade is still behind that of the United Kingdom, she is improving her position every year. In 1906 the proportion of the aggregate trade of the United Kingdom with Sierra Leone was 33·36 per cent. greater than that of Germany, and in 1910 the percentage was reduced to 13·89 per cent.

Shipping.

For the first time since 1904, from which period to 1909, inclusive, the shipping trade had steadily expanded, the shipping returns show a decline as compared with the previous year, both as regards number of ships and tonnage.

This decline is due to the existence of yellow fever in Freetown during the months of May to October, which had the natural effect of making ships avoid this port as much as possible.

In 1910, 892 vessels of a tonnage of 996,403 entered and 943 vessels of a tonnage of 997,887 cleared from the ports of the Colony, as compared with 1,116 vessels of a tonnage of 1,096,686 entering and 1,133 vessels of a tonnage of 1,094,446 clearing in 1909.

Of the 892 vessels entered in 1910, 371 were British steam vessels of a total tonnage of 770,459, while 117 were foreign steam vessels of a tonnage of 222,862.

The other vessels making up the number were 228 British sailing vessels and 176 foreign. These sailing vessels are practically all very small craft from the neighbouring West African ports.

British steam vessels entering the port show a decrease as compared with 1909 of 23, of a total tonnage of 41,747, while foreign steam vessels show a decrease of 36, of a total tonnage of 54,619.

Germany entered 89 vessels in 1910 as compared with 94 in 1909, but whereas the tonnage of the vessels entered in 1909 amounted to 119,831 the tonnage of those entered in 1910 amounted to 134,596. This is explained by the displacement of smaller vessels by others of larger carrying capacity, notably of the Hamburg Bremen West Africa, and Woermann Lines.

Belgian tonnage previous to 1910 was greater than that of Germany, but whereas the German steamers capture a considerable portion of the cargo to and from this Colony, the Belgian steamers carry mails and passengers from Antwerp to the Congo Free State, and *vice versa*, touching at Freetown *en route* for labourers, coal, and stores only. These steamers never carry any cargo to or from Sierra Leone, and the passenger traffic, which was always a negligible quantity, has now ceased, owing, it is stated, to an agreement with Messrs. Elder, Dempster, and Company.

Forestry.

The forestry work was, prior to 1910, confined to the growing of kola and gum copal, and to the introduction of Ceara rubber (Manihot Glaziovii) and Para rubber (Hevea Brasiliensis). There being no Forestry Department at that time, the work was done by the Agricultural Department, which, in its turn, was not on a proper footing.

During 1910 a Forestry Officer was appointed to organise a Forestry Department, and during the year an inspection was made of the various forests in the Colony and Protectorate. It was found that the forests of the country divide themselves naturally into rain forests and savannah forests.

Rain forest is the name given to the characteristic dense tropical forest, the trees reaching a height of 100 feet and over.

Savannah forests are open wood lands, the trees standing at some distance from each other, while the intervening space is covered with grass and other herbaceous plants. The height of these trees rarely exceeds 30 feet.

Ninety-nine per cent. of the rain forests in the Protectorate have been destroyed by the natives in their wasteful methods of farming. In the past, tribal wars were of common occurrence, and it was difficult for the native to devote his whole attention to farming, so that the forests were given an interval of rest sufficient to enable them to grow up again. The cessation of tribal wars, the growth of peaceful prosperity, and the increase of population have combined to reduce the interval between two successive farming operations on the same forest area from 9 to about 5 years.

This decrease in the time of rest has made a serious difference to the re-growth of the forest. In five years the bush has not time to re-convert the land into forest soil with its bed of humus and decaying detritus; it has not had time to give back to the soil what the farmer has taken out in his rice crop, and what has been washed away by the rains.

The re-growth is composed of scrubby bushes and deciduous shrubs. At the next rotation the bush becomes openly xerophyllous and here and there patches of grass may be seen. At this stage the native sees that he can no longer get good rice crops off this land, and he goes in search of new forest.

The shallow top spit of humus, which is all that he can cultivate, is the work of the forest; this has been used up and washed away, and the forest has, in consequence, suffered, and has finally degenerated into scrub, the native rice crops grown on this land suffering in proportion.

The appearance of patches of grass among the scrub is the sign of the final destruction of the bush. There is a constant war going on between grass-land and wood-land; and, should the balance of nature be weighed down in the slightest degree in favour of either one, that one will conquer and the disappearance of the other is assured.

In Sierra Leone, where there is a long and well-defined dry season, grass-land has already an advantage over wood-land. Grasses remain dormant for the whole dry season; they are independent of extremes of temperature, and absence of moisture, and their revival is unaffected by annual grass fires. The forest, on the other hand, has to rely entirely on the moisture in the ground and in the air to survive the dry season, and if it is so placed that grass fires rage round it, its area will be gradually reduced. If the balance of nature is upset by the felling, over a large area, of all ligneous growth, the wood-lands are entirely at the mercy of the grass-lands. A conversion is the result; the rain forest becomes savannah forest, and this, in its turn, becomes pure savannah.

At one time the rain forests must have covered the whole country; they are now confined to certain limited areas. The destruction of the forests is gradually lessening the rain-fall, and consequently altering the climate of Sierra Leone.

It has been stated that 99 per cent. of the forest area has been destroyed by natives. The remaining 1 per cent. has, up to now, been preserved, owing to the local conditions that surround it. It is generally met with on the top of mountain ranges; the natives have cultivated the lower and have not yet reached the upper slopes. Again, it is avoided, and thus preserved, owing to a superstitious belief that it is inhabited by a good or evil spirit. Around each town a varying extent of forest is maintained, part of which is used as a porroh bush; lastly, owing to past tribal wars, an area of country may be uninhabited.

Unfortunately, none of these barriers between the native and the forest are insuperable. Finding his rice crops degenerating in quality and in quantity on the exhausted soil of the lower slopes, he is rapidly making inroads into the mountain forest. Porroh bushes are being felled or reduced in area yearly; uninhabited regions become inhabited; and the settlers pursue the work of destruction in their new surroundings.

The forests of the mountains form the most important of the forests of Sierra Leone, in fact, the porroh bushes and devil bushes may be disregarded from an economic point of view.

The dangers attending the destruction of the mountain forests are more serious than those which accompany the demolition of the woods of the plains. The mountains are formed of large masses of syenite rock covered with a thin layer of soil, which is held together by the vegetation that covers it. When the vegetation is removed and the ground cultivated, there is nothing to retain the soil, which is washed down the sides of the mountains into the rivers and carried out to the sea. The fact that the natives take two successive crops off virgin forest soil makes the total destruction of the vegetation possible in two years. The conversion is no longer one from wood-land to grass-land, but from wood-land to bare rock.

The torrential tropical rains, instead of sinking into a bed of forest soil and through the fissures of the syenite, to break out in springs lower down, rush off the mountains into the valleys, causing short-lived but violent floods.

During the dry season, on the other hand, the forest having been removed, the springs dry up. Thus, instead of perennially running water, the rivers are converted into torrents in the rains, and detached pools in the dry season.

Mountain ranges, offering as they do a cold surface to the moisture-laden winds, increase the precipitation of moisture. This effect is more marked when the range is covered with forest, the mean temperature of the forest being several degrees lower than the surrounding country.

The foregoing remarks show plainly how ruinous are the consequences attendant on the destruction of the mountain forests, widely affecting, as it must, both the water supply and the general climate of the country.

It is evident also that, under the present conditions, the agriculture of the country is dependent on the forests for its continued existence—as if the present rate of conversion from wood-land to grass-land is maintained the retention of the present native method of agriculture will soon be out of the question. This matter is engaging the serious attention of the Government.

The remaining forests contain valuable timber trees such as West African teak (*Chlorophora excelsa*), and West African oak (*Oldfieldia africana*); valuable economic trees such as Preh rubber (*Funtumia elastica*), gum copal (*Copaifera*), and kola (*Cola acuminata*) are also found. Samples of the wood of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* were forwarded to the Imperial Institute in order that its suitability for the construction of musical instruments might be ascertained, but the timber proved to be of no special value for this purpose.

The extraction of timber from these forests is out of the question for some years to come, as a higher price will have to be offered for the timber than is at present obtainable, and better means of transport provided before the forests can be exploited economically. In the meantime, under proper management a constant supply of gum copal, rubber, and kola may be expected.

In order to supply timber, it will be necessary to make reserves near the railway and on the banks of the navigable portions of the rivers. At present the main timber supply comes from overseas, and all of this can be grown locally. It is estimated that two reserves of 2,500 acres each will be ample to supply the present demand for timber. In addition to this, it is suggested that four reserves of the same area should be established with a view to supplying timber for export and to meet the increased local demand, which will necessarily follow the development of the country.

Trees of Economic Value.

The oil palm is responsible for nearly three-quarters of the trade of the country, and at present the only restriction to the felling of the trees is that imposed by the chiefs. One result of the scarcity of rice last year is that the natives are now making very large farms, and are, in places, sacrificing palm trees to grow rice. This very serious state of affairs is being realised by the chiefs, who are taking steps to put a stop to this destruction of the capital of the country.

Rubber is yielded by the vine (*Landolphia owariensis*) and by the tree (*Funtumia elastica*), both these sources have been destroyed to a great extent by the vines having been dug up and the trees felled.

Introduced rubbers are represented by Ceara (*Manihot Glaziovii*), Para (*Hevea brasiliensis*), and Central American (*Castilloa elastica*). Ceara does well, but tapping this species is very difficult, so that the Para has taken its place. Para is doing well throughout the Protectorate, even under very unfavourable conditions.

The Para rubber trees raised from seed at Kennema and planted out two years ago are apparently thriving, some of them reaching a height of 10 to 15 feet.

The *Funtumia elastica* trees were planted out in the forest; but are growing very slowly, probably owing to excessive shade.

The experiment was tried of distributing Para seed to chiefs, but most of them did not understand how to sow the seed or look after the seedlings, and the result has been that large quantities of the seed have been wasted, and the plantations, with one exception, have turned out failures. Fortunately, seed and plants were at the same time distributed among the various Mission stations, and at these Mission stations the plantations are very successful, showing that the soil is eminently suited to rubber and that care and supervision are all that is necessary.

Central American rubber is growing in various places, and looks as if it may prove a success.

Individual trees in the Colony have been tapped and good results obtained.

Kola.—The nut yielded by this tree forms the most important product of Sierra Leone, after that of the oil palm. The cultivation of the kola tree is extending, but the natives obtain the minimum possible yield from a maximum number of trees by failing to realise the importance of planting the trees far apart and of pruning them, showing that they do not realise at present the full possibilities of the kola industry.

The trees grow easily, especially in moist soil. They bear in six or seven years, and at that age yield an income of at least £3 each per annum.

Gum Copal.—This product, which at one time formed a large item in the trade returns, has now dwindled to a few hundredweights. The natives have everywhere over-tapped the tree, and having killed the large trees, they are now engaged in making farms among the seedlings. The tree occurs in well-defined belts so that it can be preserved by the constitution of forest reserves.

20,000 gum copal seedlings were planted out on forest lands adjoining the Headquarters of the Railway District (Kennema), and have done well—at least 80 per cent. have lived—a further 5,000 were distributed to chiefs and others in the district, but with much less satisfactory results.

Agriculture.

The most marked feature of the year was the great scarcity of rice, beginning in April and lasting until the new rice came in September. This scarcity was apparently common to the whole Protectorate, and was due to the early rains in 1909, the result being that many of the farms could not be "burnt" and cultivated. In some districts, early in 1910, the natives apparently did not realise the situation, and they sold rice in fairly large quantities at low rates, being obliged to buy, later in the year, inferior rice at three and four times the price for which they had sold their own.

There was consequently a great scarcity in most of the districts, and, although, owing to the action of the Government in taking the duty off imported rice, a famine was averted, there were some isolated cases of deaths from starvation.

The distress was aggravated in the palm kernel districts by the fact that the natives had, for years, neglected the other forms of food-stuffs normally grown, and had devoted all their energies to the palm kernel trade.

Rice has been the staple food of all the aboriginal tribes in the Protectorate from time immemorial, and no attempt appears to have been made, prior to 1910, to grow, in sufficient quantities, any other food-stuffs to replace the rice crop in the event of the latter's failure. Ground-nuts, maize, bananas, sweet potatoes, and cassava had been grown merely as supplementary foods.

The failure of the rice crop in 1910 has left a deep impression on the natives, and they now see the necessity of growing several different crops so as not to be solely dependent on rice. Only in the lower river districts, where rice is grown on the land after it has been flooded, is the Japanese method adopted of sowing the original crop in seed-beds and then transplanting when the water goes down. In the higher districts there are from 15 to 20 different varieties of rice grown, most of which are mere hybrid off-shoots caused by the careless mixing of various kinds of seeds. One variety is ready for reaping within three months from the time of sowing, but the yield is low—about 15 bushels of husk rice per acre. Between seed-time and harvest of the other varieties about five months elapse, the average crop yielding per acre from 30 to 40 bushels of husk rice.

Native farming methods are primitive in the extreme. Old bush is cut down and burnt, no effort being made to remove the stumps, which remain to encumber the ground. The soil is then merely scratched with a piece of wood or some such simple implement; the seed is sown on the roughened ground, and the rest left to nature.

The reduction of the period during which the farms were formerly allowed to lie fallow, and the evils consequent on such reduction, are dealt with in the remarks under "Forestry."

In order to meet the necessities of the growing population, experiments are being carried out by the Government with the object of improving, if possible, the native methods of agriculture. The most important of these is the Government farm in the Konnoh sub-district.

Generally speaking, the objects aimed at are: To ascertain the extent of the advantage which crops grown on cleared and deep-hoed land possess over those which are the result of ordinary native methods; the relative yield of different varieties of native-grown rice; the determination of the ratio of husk rice to clean rice for different varieties; and the possibility of obtaining an economic rotation of crops which will enable the same land to continue to be used, instead of allowing it to revert to bush, as is the native customs for four or five years.

Definite information has already been obtained on the first three points; in regard to the last, nothing definite is yet known, but it is hoped that the following rotation will prove successful:—

1 Rice.
2. Ground-nuts.
3. Maize.
4. Pigeon peas (one to two years).

The greatest difficulty to be contended with is the inherent conservatism of the aboriginal, and his present disinclination to clear the ground of stumps, and to adopt a system of deeper tillage.

Attempts are being made to introduce cocoa into the Protectorate. There is a plantation at Kennema, but the cocoa on this estate is not as satisfactory as could be wished. It is feared that the ground, though carefully selected, is not equal to the production of a high grade of cocoa. A sample of cocoa produced at the Roman Catholic Mission station at Serabu was sent to the Imperial Institute to be examined, and was found to be of fair quality, but capable of considerable improvement by more thorough fermentation.

Cocoa has been grown with a moderate degree of success by the people of the Colony, but no attempt has been made by them to cultivate it on scientific lines.

The imported varieties of maize do not seem to thrive; but in the Kuranko and Konnoh countries there is a peculiar local variety which is prolific, bearing six cobs to every plant. The seed is very small but the cob is long, and the outer "enamel" of the grain is so hard that it has the reputation of being almost impervious to weevils.

Ground-nuts, sweet potatoes, and cassava grow everywhere.

Yams have been imported from Southern Nigeria and are thriving.

English vegetable seeds were imported during the year, and distributed to farmers in the Colony with a view to fostering a trade in market garden produce with Freetown.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed in 1910. Of these, it is only necessary to refer to Ordinance No. 9, which makes provision for the celebration of marriages in the office of a Registrar or District Commissioner; the Enquiries (Protectorate) Ordinance (No. 14), which makes provision for the holding of enquiries by District Commissioners in the Protectorate into the cause of death of deceased persons, where there is reason to suppose that such death is due to other than natural causes; the White Phosphorus Matches Prohibition Ordinance (No. 15), which prohibits the importation of matches made with white or yellow phosphorus; and the False Publication Ordinance, which makes it a penal offence to print or publish false and misleading statements upon matters of public interest which are likely to do harm.

IV.—EDUCATION.

COLONY.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of:—

(*a*.) Primary Mission Schools.
(*b*.) Secondary Schools (Missionary and Proprietary).
(*c*.) The Diocesan Technical School.
(*d*.) Fourah Bay College.
(*e*.) Five Government Mohammedan Primary Schools.

The Primary Schools, with the exception of the Mohammedan Schools, derive their revenue from Government grants, capitation and otherwise, school fees, grants from the Missionary Societies, and weekly contributions from members of the church to which the school is attached.

The number of Primary Schools in the Colony proper is 96; 78 are assisted and 18 unassisted by the Government.

The following table shows the distribution of the Mission Schools in the Colony among the several denominations and their enrolled and average attendance:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	39	3,322	2,151
Wesleyan	22	2,436	1,592
United Methodist Church	12	821	468
Countess of Huntingdon's Connection	10	429	232
Roman Catholic	8	928	670
United Brethren in Christ	2	204	90
African Methodist Episcopal ...	2	308	177
Seventh Day Adventist	1	101	80
Total	96	8,549	5,460

Compared with the previous year, these figures show an increase of 395 in the roll number and a decrease of 976 in the average attendance; the decrease in the average attendance may be attributed to more careful observance of the rules relating to the marking of registers.

The total income from all sources of the 78 assisted schools was £5,762, as compared with £5,161 in 1900.

The total expenditure amounted to £5,304, as compared with £4,784 in 1909. £1,703 was spent by the Roman Catholic Mission in the building of a new school for girls.

The Government contributed towards this income of £5,762, grants amounting to £2,190, a little less than 38 per cent.; school fees yielded £1,019, a little less than 18 per cent.; the remainder, a little over 44 per cent., was derived from the general funds of the different denominations or by voluntary contributions from individuals.

Assisted schools are now required to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, with some practical industrial or agricultural work, the latter preferably in the rural schools. History, geography, and grammar form part of the syllabus. Arrangements are being made by which school hygiene, nature study, and moral instruction, the latter taught directly or indirectly through the history lesson, will rank as school subjects; the number and nature of the subjects taught will vary with the needs and conditions of the locality. Sewing is taught to female scholars in the afternoon. In a few schools, as the result of personal supervision and instruction by the inspectors, the value of the teaching rendered has been increased considerably. The child's powers of observation and expression are cultivated, and he is encouraged to use simple English sentences instead of the patois which is in common use. Accuracy is often attained in arithmetic, with no apparent understanding of the processes involved.

Some progress has been made in the education of infants. A few schools in the past gave full scope both to the physical and mental activities of younger children. The others failed to do so; but this state of affairs is gradually being remedied.

An important experiment has been conducted by the Government with regard to the introduction of manual training. Its object was to test the educational value in this country of the systems and methods obtaining elsewhere. Conducted under the most careful supervision, the experiment has shown clearly the necessity for the introduction of manual training into the school curriculum at the earliest opportunity.

The system of an annual examination by the Inspector of Schools has now been abandoned in favour of inspections. The grant-in-aid paid in 1910 was assessed, for the last time, on the results of an examination. It is stated that the system of inspections, frequent and more searching, provides a test for the schools which combines many advantages. Examinations have not been entirely abandoned, and they form part of a test on the results of which the grant-in-aid is paid.

3,451 children were instructed in the Standards (I. to VII.); 2,272 were presented at the annual examination, and 1,539 passed. The percentage of those presented to those instructed was 80·3, as compared with 81·4 in the previous year. The percentage of passes to those presented was 55·5, as compared with 55·2 in the previous year.

1,955 infants were presented and passed. 2,429 girl scholars were presented in sewing; the grant was paid on 2,199. There were 14 passes in geography, 8 in English history, and 42 in English grammar. No pupil was presented in drawing.

All the Assisted Schools were inspected frequently with good results, the teachers benefiting by the help given them by the inspectors.

Lack of training, and the uncertainty of a career, have, in the past, brought the teaching profession to a low level. The situation has improved, and a better class of person is now attracted to the ranks of teachers.

Apart from providing permanently for trained teachers in the future, which is receiving careful consideration, the Government have inaugurated a scheme by which teachers will be afforded the opportunity of earning certificates carrying a yearly grant from the Government and resulting in the payment of a certain fixed salary from the Missionary Societies, the grant and salary varying with the class of certificate earned.

Efficiency and economy are to some extent hindered by denominational feeling, which in some cases maintains two or more schools in sparsely populated areas.

It is gratifying to record that the school authorities realise more fully the necessity for better hygienic conditions. Extensions to school buildings have been made, and others are under contemplation, so as to provide more space and better ventilation. Some of the older school buildings are very unsatisfactory from a sanitary point of view.

There are eight Secondary Schools belonging to the religious denominations, 1 large and 5 small proprietary schools. The total number of pupils educated in these institutions amounts to over a thousand, 820 of whom attend the Missionary Schools. From these schools come the professional classes and the teachers and clerks in the Government Service and the commercial firms. A scheme has been sanctioned by which these schools will come into the grant-aided area, with the object of aiding in the establishment of systematic hand and eye work, and in securing a supply of trained youths for service as teachers.

There are five Government Mohammedan schools or "Madrasas" in the Colony for the education of Mohammedan children of the Colony and Protectorate.

With the exception of a small sum contributed towards the maintenance and equipment, the revenue of these schools is derived entirely from public funds.

The number of pupils on the roll was 754, and the average attendance 510, as compared with 781 and 594 respectively in 1909. Of this number, over 200 are representative of the several tribes in the Protectorate, the Mandingoes and the Temnes being more numerous than the others.

The curriculum is the same as in the Christian schools, with the addition of Arabic, which is taught daily between 7 and 9 a.m.

Arrangements have been made by which these schools are inspected from time to time.

Hitherto, the schools have been staffed by Christian teachers; but 12 Mohammedan lads have, for the past three years, been receiving instruction in general knowledge, under the supervision of the Education Department, with a view to becoming teachers in the Mohammedan schools. They were originally handicapped by an unsuitable scheme of studies, but changes have been made, and a sounder system now obtains. These lads have shown good progress at the half-yearly examinations, and it is hoped that four or five of them will, in the next two years, take their place as teachers, after a course of instruction of teaching in a school.

It is an interesting fact that the Mohammedans in this Colony are desirous that their women should be educated. Some of them, it is hoped, will eventually become teachers.

Apart from the above, there are Mohammedan schools scattered throughout the country where, apparently, the sole object of instruction is religion; but the effect of the establishment of Mohammedan schools in the Colony has certainly re-acted on those in the Protectorate, which now desire a course of efficient elementary instruction and industrial training.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School continues to do good work. As far as possible, the practical side of the subjects is taught in the school's workshops and by work outside.

The school undertakes to design and plan houses, and to watch building operations, so that the students become acquainted with the operations from start to finish.

During the year the expenditure on the school amounted to £553 16*s*. 4*d*. This was met as follows:—

	Per cent.
Voluntary subscriptions	36¼
Receipts for work done	23½
Government grant	21¼
School fees and sale of books	14½
Scholarship fees	4½

The effect of the technical training already given is seen mainly in the building trade; and the incommodious, hot, and badly ventilated buildings, which are characteristic of Freetown, are gradually, though very slowly, being replaced by buildings built on more scientific principles.

It is becoming more the practice to build according to a previously worked out plan, instead of the ideas as to the ultimate design being evolved as the building progressed. The number of unfinished houses in Freetown is evidence of the number of times this haphazard way of building has been unsuccessfully tried.

University Education.

The number of students at Fourah Bay College, during 1910, was 17; of these, five were Church Missionary Society scholars in training for the Anglican ministry; the rest were paying students, contemplating either a professional or commercial career. All were reading the Arts course in connection with Durham University. During the year seven students passed the first year's examination of the University; three passed in Part I. of the final examination, and one in Part II.

The future of the College continues to be an anxious problem; the increase in the number of students, coupled with the gift from the Pan-Anglican Thank-offering (which will, it is hoped, yield about £100 per annum) has somewhat relieved the tension; but the atempt to secure, locally, capital for an endowment fund has not been successful; and, until some such permanent provision is made, the life of the College must continue to be precarious.

EDUCATION IN THE PROTECTORATE.

As stated in the Report for 1909, education in the Protectorate is advancing rapidly, but it is not advancing as rapidly as the following figures would appear to indicate, as the returns received last year from the various denominations owning schools in the Protectorate were very incomplete.

In 1910 there were, according to the returns, 71 schools, with 2,229 pupils on the roll, as compared with 23, with 956 pupils on the roll in 1909.

Nearly all of the schools in the Protectorate carry on work in English, the enrolment varying from 6 to 130. In the Koinadugu District there are some schools conducted in the vernacular only—in them the pupils are taught reading and writing solely as a preparation for religious instruction.

In the English-speaking schools the teaching is, as a rule, confined to the elements of arithmetic and English; in the greater number the medium of instruction is "pidgin" English, resulting in rapid initial progress and stagnation later, for the dialect is an actual hindrance to the acquiring of pure English afterwards.

The work in the Anglican schools in the Karene and Koinadugu Districts is done, where possible, in the day, but most of it is done in the evenings between 7 and 8.30 p.m. As the time is short, and the children are unpunctual in their attendance, coming as they do after their day's duties in the farms are over, progress is slow.

In the Mende country, where the Church Schools number about 13, day and night schools are held. This is due to the influence of settlers from the Colony proper who have children to be educated, and to the sympathy of the chiefs, some of whom have been to some extent educated. In a few of the schools agriculture is taught, and three of the missionary bodies have plots of land varying from 2 to 40 acres, where agriculture and forestry are being taught scientifically. These schools are doing the most successful educational work; their aim is to establish their pupils, after school life, on the soil, to help them to obtain land of their own, to build a better type of house, lay out plantations and farms scientifically, and they encourage intermarriage at the end of school life between the educated young men and women. By these means they hope to check the present almost inevitable drifting to Freetown of the educated population, by giving them a stake in their own country, a means of livelihood, and a scope for their abilities.

This year the Government has introduced a scheme of grants to Protectorate Schools, which aims at a system of industrial and agricultural training. The aim is twofold—partly to encourage such practical teaching as will benefit the people materially, and partly to retain in the minds of the pupils respect for their own country, people, and institutions.

Agriculture, for example, is to be so taught as to inculcate the idea of the dignity of labour as well as to show ways to improve the present wasteful and inefficient methods of farming. It is an almost universal complaint, made by chiefs and others concerned with the welfare of the people, that education, as now carried on, raises in the pupils contempt for farm labour.

In the teaching of hygiene regard is to be paid to the proper pride which ought to exist in the pupil's mind, good local customs being made the basis of instruction where possible, and bad customs dealt with tactfully.

Arithmetic is to be so taught as to aid and improve local industry, as well as to protect the country people from unscrupulous traders; and native industries, which are rapidly dying out before the importation of inferior machine-made articles, are to be encouraged as part of school training.

No school, however, is competent to earn any grant unless an intelligent understanding of, and respect for, tribal law and authority have been features of the school work.

This scheme of instruction has been explained to the Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate, and has been received with warm approval, as they recognise and dread the results of purely theoretical education among the children of their people.

The unanimity of the chiefs with regard to the results of ordinary schools on their children is interesting. They realise that it is necessary in these days to have some one able to read and write, but a child educated under the old system is a child spoiled for any other useful work.

Full particulars of the school at Bo for the sons of chiefs are given in the Report for 1909.

There were 118 pupils in the school at the end of 1910, as compared with 107 at the end of 1909.

The amount paid in school fees during the year amounted to £1,117, and the expenses of maintaining the school amounted to £3,018.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Colonial Hospital.

The Colonial Hospital, Freetown, contains six wards. The building is antiquated and dilapidated and quite unsuitable for the requirements of the present day, either in regard to the treatment of patients or the scientific work of the staff.

There were 53 patients (33 males and 20 females) in the hospital at the close of 1909, and 1,347 (1,046 males and 301 females) were admitted during the year. Of these, 661 (417 males and 244 females) were cured; 500 (420 males and 80 females) were relieved; 144 (101 males and 43 females) were not relieved; and 141 (105 males and 36 females) died, leaving 54 (36 males and 18 females) in the hospital at the close of the year.

The number of patients admitted (1,400) into the hospital during the year is the largest since the year 1904, when it reached a total of 1,570.

The number of out-patients treated in 1910 was greater than the number treated in 1909 by 4,321.

During the year, 117 cases were treated in the maternity ward of the Colonial Hospital as compared with 97 cases in 1909,

Nursing Home.

This Institution, for the use of Europeans only, is managed by European nurses, under the supervision of the Principal Medical Officer.

There were 60 admissions during the year as compared with 50 in 1909.

The classification of the patients is as follows:—

Government officials	27
Commercial firms	28
Shipping	5
	60

There were 4 deaths, 1 due to blackwater fever and 3 to yellow fever.

The receipts during the year amounted to £233.

Lunatic Asylum.

There were 70 males and 39 females in the Institution at the beginning of the year, and during the year 33 males and 14 females were admitted, making a total of 156 under treatment—an increase of 13 over the previous year. Of these, 18 were relieved and sent to their friends to be cared for, 2 absconded, and 27 died, leaving 109 patients in the asylum at the end of the year.

During the year, the old and defective building for the accommodation of violent female lunatics was pulled down, and many much needed additions to, and alterations in, the asylum were carried out. The result is that Sierra Leone has now got an asylum built in accordance with modern ideas.

Various.

In the Male Incurable Hospital, there were 71 patients at the beginning of the year; 136 were admitted during the year; 73 were discharged; and 52 deaths occurred. 82 patients were in the hospital at the end of the year.

Owing to the serious nature of the cases and the advanced stage in which many were admitted the death-rate in this institution is always high.

The old building was thoroughly repaired during the year. There were 9 lepers in the hospital at the beginning of the year; 3 were admitted during the year, 3 absconded, and 8 were in the hospital at the close of the year.

There were 29 patients in the Female Incurable Hospital at the beginning of the year and during the year 56 were admitted, making a total of 85 under treatment. 26 were discharged during the year, 26 died, and 33 were in the hospital at the end of the year.

There are small hospitals and dispensaries at the headquarters of all the districts in the Protectorate, as well as at Bo, and at

Daru—the headquarters of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force.

There were 16 patients in these hospitals at the end of 1909; 542 were treated during 1910 and 21 remained in the various hospitals at the end of the year.

The number of out-patients treated in the various dispensaries of the Colony and Protectorate (except the Colonial Hospital, Freetown) amounted during the year to 48,519 (30,608 males and 17,911 females).

The total number of cases treated by the medical department during the year amounted to 87,094 as compared with 72,560 in 1909. Of the former number, 22,441 consisted of officials, &c. (who are entitled to free medical attendance), and paying patients, and 64,653 were regarded as paupers and received free treatment and medicine.

The actual amount expended for medicine was £1,279, and the amount received from paying out-patients was only £65. It is well known that a large number of people attend the Government Hospitals and Dispensaries as pauper patients who can very well afford to pay for attendance and medicine, but it is a difficult practice to stop.

The following is a condensed statement of the actual revenue and expenditure of the Medical Department for the year:—

Revenue.

	£
Sale of medicines	99
Hursing Home receipts	233
Hospital receipts	196
Maintenance of lunatics from other Colonies	554
	£1,082

This shows an increase in the receipts of £190 18*s*. 1*d*. as compared with 1909.

Expenditure.

	£
Personal emoluments, &c.	18,311
Provisions and necessaries	3,866
Hospital equipment	264
Medicines, &c.	1,279
	£23,720

This shows an increase of £2,629 over the expenditure for 1909, due chiefly to the appointment of two sanitary officers, and an assistant matron for the Colonial Hospital; also expenditure in connection with the yellow fever outbreak.

Savings Bank.

The deposits during the year numbered 8,493 of the value of £57,569, as compared with 8,744 deposits, of the value of £49,131, in 1909.

The withdrawals amounted to £52,011, as compared with £47,281 in 1909, and the total amount due to depositors, exclusive of interest for the year 1910, was £91,078. During the year, £4,500 was invested, which sum now brings the total investments up to £90,162.

The dividends received from investments for 1910 amounted to £2,905, as compared with £2,768 in 1909.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of the judicial system obtaining in Sierra Leone will be found on page 39 of the Report for 1909.

Police.

The authorised strength of the Force at the beginning of the year was the Commissioner, 1 European inspector, and 251 non-commissioned officers and men. Further particulars of the police will be found on pages 40 and 41 of the Report for 1909.

318 certificates of justness in connection with the Weights and Measures Ordinance were issued during the year, as compared with 331 issued in 1909.

906 weights, 233 weighing-machines, and 244 measures were examined during the year. The extension of the duration of a certificate of justness from one to two years, referred to in the Report for 1909, while giving satisfaction to the trading community, has in no way lessened the value of the Ordinance, nor has it increased the difficulties of enforcing its provisions. A sum of £35 19*s.* 3*d.* was collected in fees, and 208 surprise visits were paid during the year in connection with the Weights and Measures Ordinance.

The men of the police are now recruited almost entirely from the aborigines, special attention being paid to character, physique, general ability, and intelligence, rather than to the qualifications of being able to read and write.

The aborigines enlisted are quite illiterate, but they are required to attend the police school three times a week, and, after a year or two, many of them turn out very good constables.

The old system was to recruit only those men who could read and write; this narrowed the area of selection and excluded many desirable men.

The present system promises to do well in time, but a certain amount of literates are absolutely indispensable to fill vacancies in the higher ranks in the force, and the question of attracting suitable men to the force is engaging the attention of the Government.

352 new finger prints were taken during the year, the total number now classified and registered being 1,573.

Nine fires occurred during the year, as compared with ten in 1909. Most of these were in properties of small value.

The information collected by the Commissioner of Police in regard to these fires goes to prove that incendiarism is not prevalent in Freetown. The assumption is that most, if not all, of the fires which occurred during the year were the result of accidents.

The number of cases reported to the police during the year was 2,019; 1,551 persons were arrested; 1,175 were convicted and 376 were discharged.

There was an increase in the number of cases of simple larceny over 1909 of 37·81 per cent. This was undoubtedly due to two causes, the scarcity of rice, and to the fact that Freetown was placed in quarantine, owing to the occurrence of yellow fever from May to September inclusive. It was during these five months that nearly two-thirds of these cases occurred, the greater portion of them being for stealing rice and other kinds of food.

While Freetown was declared an infected port, the ships refused to take men from it to work their cargoes down the coast, and, as a result of this, hundreds of Kroomen and other labourers were thrown out of employment, and they remained unemployed for many weeks.

399 dog licences were issued and 603 unclaimed dogs were destroyed by the police during the year.

The cost of the force for the year amounted to £8,893, as compared with £8,901 in 1909.

Freetown Gaol.

The daily average number in prison was 219 males and 7 females, as compared with 209 males and 5 females in 1909.

The new temporary prison erected on the site of the old Botanic Gardens was occupied from the 1st January on an average by 120 men. This has very considerably relieved the congestion which had hitherto existed in the old gaol.

The conduct of the prisoners showed an improvement, the number of reports for breaches of prison discipline being 377 as against 499 in 1909. On the other hand, corporal punishment was inflicted 11 times, as against 3 in 1909 (7 times for breaches of prison regulations and 4 times by order of the Courts).

The general health of the inmates was good.

The number of deaths from natural causes was 5, and from executions 4.

The cost of the department, exclusive of expenditure on materials for the manufacturing department, was £6,427.

The profits from the manufacturing department amounted to £477 13*s*. 7*d*.

There was, compared with the previous year, an increase of crime in the Colony in 1910, and an apparent decrease in the Protectorate.

During 1910, 2,383 cases were brought before the magistrates of the Colony, as compared with 2,145 in 1909. Of this number, 418 were for offences against the person, and 905 were for larceny.

In the Protectorate, 488 cases were brought before the District Commissioners, as compared with 707 in 1909. Of these, 33 were for offences against the person and 10 were for larceny.

192 cases were committed for trial before the Superior Courts of the Colony and Protectorate, as compared with 177 in 1909. Of these, 20 were for attempt to murder, 79 were for larceny, and 19 were for offences against the person.

The number of summary convictions was 1,910 in 1910, as compared with 1,873 in 1909. Of these, 1,534 were in the Colony and 376 in the Protectorate. Of the convictions in the Colony, 592 were for larceny, and 216 were for offences against the person, while there were 46 convictions in the Protectorate for offences against the person, and 10 for larceny.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1910 was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 75,051. The deaths registered numbered 1,550, and the births 1,152, showing a death-rate of 20 per 1,000, and a birth-rate of 15 per 1,000; as, however, registration of births and deaths all over the Colony is not compulsory, the figures are not reliable.

In Freetown, where the registration of births and deaths is compulsory, the figures are more reliable.

The estimated population of Freetown, on the 31st December, 1909, was 39,531, and the actual population, according to the census for 1911, was 34,090. It is obvious therefore that the estimated population for 1909 was too high, and this fact, combined with an unusual amount of illness in 1910, accounts for the marked difference in the death-rate in Freetown for that year as compared with the previous year.

The births registered in Freetown amounted to 581 and the deaths to 936, giving a birth-rate of 17 per 1,000, and a death-rate of 27 per 1,000.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Malarial fever	122
Nervous system	156
Respiratory system	117
Digestive system	190
Circulatory system	52
Genito-Urinary system	23
Debility	80
Premature births	48
Tubercle	24

There were 10 deaths from yellow fever, viz.: 5 Europeans, 3 Syrians, and 2 natives.

Of the total deaths registered, 214 occurred under the age of one year, which gives an infantile death-rate of 368 per 1,000 births, an increase of 24 over the figures for the previous year.

The reasons assigned for this high death-rate among children will be found on page 44 of the Report for 1909.

The health of the Europeans in Sierra Leone was not so satisfactory as in 1909, the death and sick rates being decidedly higher: an outbreak of yellow fever in Freetown was the chief cause of this.

Blackwater fever was also unusually prevalent, there being nine cases treated at the Nursing Home, resulting in one death.

The total number of Europeans resident in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was 831, made up as follows:—

Officials	171
Military	361
Commercial, &c.	299
	831

There were 15 deaths among these Europeans during the year (13 in Freetown and 2 in the Protectorate) due to the following causes:—

Yellow fever	5
Blackwater fever	4
Pernicious Malarial Remittent (*Hyperpyrexia*)	1
Dysentery	1
Drowning	1
Septicæmia (wounds caused by buffalo) ...	1
Heart disease	1
Debility	1

The total official strength for the year was:—

Europeans	171
Natives	946
	1,117

Among the former there were 83 admissions on the sick list, with two deaths, and, among the latter, there were 589 admissions with ten deaths.

Eight European officials were invalided during the year.

Eighty-three European officials were on the sick list during 1910, as compared with 71 in 1909; and the total number of days they were on the sick list was 606, as compared with 512 in 1909.

589 native officials were on the sick list during 1910, as compared with 498 in 1909. The total number of days they were on the sick list was 2,936, as compared with 3,109 in 1909.

Vaccination was carried on fairly regularly during the year throughout the Colony and Protectorate, but not with the same success as in the previous year.

6,536 persons were vaccinated; of these 4,437 (or 67 per cent.) were successful; 890 (or 13 per cent.) were failures; and 1,209 (or 18 per cent.) were not seen again.

The Colony and Protectorate remained free from any epidemic outbreak of small-pox during the year. Sporadic cases occurred however at Bo in the Protectorate, at York in the Colony, and in Freetown; but only four cases in all were reported.

Sanitation.

The sanitation of Freetown was, as usual, under the management of the Sanitary Department of the City Council, to which body the Principal Medical Officer is Medical Officer of Health.

During the first half of the year, there were only 50 labourers employed for scavenging duties; but, later on, owing to the presence of yellow fever, the number was increased, at the expense of the Government, to 200, as rigorous anti-stegomyia measures were considered necessary.

A large proportion of refuse collected in the streets has to be removed by manual labour, owing to the fact that there were only two bullock carts and one mule cart available for this work. This hampers very seriously the important work of scavenging in Freetown.

Some difficulty having arisen, owing to the rocky nature of the soil on remaining sites around the town, as to the disposal of old tins and bottles by burial, two canoes were provided by the Government for the disposal, by dumping into the sea, of all such refuse. That this method has proved a great success is evidenced by the fact that 2,042 tons of this variety of rubbish were disposed of in this way.

During the year, the Government erected 7 new incinerators, 24 new dust-bins, and 6 new public open-air laundries. At present there are, in Freetown, 12 incinerators, 44 dust-bins, and 12 laundries.

The new fish market, towards the building of which the Government contributed £1,500, was opened during the year, and it affords a much more sanitary method for the disposal of fish for sale than the former system of exposing it on any vacant bit of road or footpath in the town.

The drawing up of a comprehensive plan for the reconstruction of the drains and streets of Freetown is under consideration, but this will not interfere with the carrying out of the minor sanitary improvements in the draining, &c., of the town that are at present considered to be urgently required, and which will, to a large extent, assist in the present mosquito extermination campaign.

Anti-malarial measures were carried out as usual during the year, and consisted of the following:—

(1) The collection of all old tins and bottles and other rubbish likely to facilitate the breeding of mosquitos, and their disposal by dumping them in the sea at a suitable distance from the shore, two canoes being provided for this purpose;

(2) The periodical oiling of stagnant pools;

(3) Regular attention to the various water courses, with a view to keeping their channels free from obstructions, so as to prevent the formation of stagnant pools in them;

(4) House to house inspections of premises for the detection of mosquito larvæ in water receptacles.

This necessary work was placed on a satisfactory footing by the appointment, in October, of a junior sanitary officer, who carried out street larvæ inspections under the Public Health Amendment Ordinance (No. 16 of 1910), by which the presence of larvæ in any water vessel in a compound renders the occupier liable to be dealt with summarily, whether a notice has been served to abate the nuisance or not. The result of the enforcement of this new law was an early and marked reduction in the number of mosquito breeding compounds, and a continuance of the campaign now being carried on will be an undoubted benefit to the health of Freetown.

The following works were carried out during the year by the Public Works Department at a cost of £2,565 and, connected as they are with the drainage of the town, are included under the head of anti-malarial measures:—

(*a*) New masonry drains and concrete culverts, 2,562 lineal feet;
(*b*) Drains cut in laterite or earth, 11,525 lineal feet;
(*c*) Culverts repaired and cleared, 167;
(*d*) Streets ballasted and levelled up, 8,200 lineal feet;
(*e*) New culverts constructed, 29;
(*f*) Draining of public stand pipes.

The question of improving the water supply of Freetown is receiving the attention of the Government. At present the supply is only just sufficient to meet the bare requirements of the town during the dry season, and there is no provision to meet an emergency, such as the bursting of a main, or the development of a leak in the reservoir, which is only capable of storing a two days' supply of water.

This defect in the public water supply bears a close relation to the question of stegomyia extermination, the importance of which was brought home to the people by the outbreak of yellow fever during the year, as it means the continuance of the presence of wells and of an insufficient number of public stand pipes in the town, which in its turn means the keeping of a large quantity of water in the dwelling houses. The water is kept in barrels, jars, drums, tins, &c., and the practice has been proved to be the chief source of mosquito larvæ at the present time. Were the water supply improved so as to bring water within the reach of every one in Freetown, the use of these water receptacles would, assisted by legislation, gradually fall into abeyance, and a source of great danger to the whole community would be thereby removed.

Part of the comprehensive system of drainage will be the concreting and canalising of the water-courses running through the town. At present the streams run in small gorges varying from a few feet up to 10 to 15 feet deep, the beds of these streams consisting chiefly of large boulders and loose stones of varying sizes; in the dry season the water in these streams becomes reduced to a mere trickle, and numerous pools are formed in the beds, in which mosquitos breed.

Elementary hygiene is now regularly taught in the Secondary Schools, and at the annual examination in December, 107 candidates sat, as compared with 100 in 1909. The five schools presenting the 107 candidates received a bonus of £20 each.

The health conditions of Hill Station have, during 1910, continued to be quite satisfactory. There were 79 residents (counting those who stayed for a month and upwards as residents) or an increase of 25 over that for the previous year.

There was, however, an increase of only two in the number of admissions on the sick list.

The total number of cases on the sick list was 18; of these six were due to climatic causes:—

Malarial fever	5
Yellow fever (suspected) ...	1

In three of the cases of malarial fever, infection was contracted during visits to the Protectorate; the other two cases occurred in military residents who worked in Freetown daily.

There is little doubt that in the suspected case of yellow fever, infection was contracted in Freetown.

Quarantine.

During the year the quarantine station was opened once for the isolation of persons landed from suspected ships arriving from Sekondi during the yellow fever outbreak at that place; 51 persons were isolated at the station during the period it was open, and no cases of illness occurred amongst them.

A small outbreak of yellow fever occurred in Freetown during the year. The first case came under observation in May, and the last case in September. There were in all thirteen diagnosed cases, with 10 deaths; and 10 suspicious cases, with one death.

—	Diagnosed cases.		Suspicious cases.	
	Deaths.	Recoveries.	Deaths.	Recoveries.
Europeans	5	3	—	8
Natives	2	—	—	—
Syrians	3	—	1	1

It is quite possible that other cases occurred among the native population, but the disease being of a mild form no application was made for medical assistance, and as such cases did not come under medical observation no record of them was possible.

Although medical officers have been specially on the watch for trypanosomiasis, only one diagnosed and three suspected cases were reported from the Protectorate, and three suspicious cases in the Colony. It is inferred from this that this disease is, at least, not on the increase in Sierra Leone. Regulations are in force for checking the introduction of the disease by shipping.

Leprosy has been met with in the Karene and Kaballa Districts. In every instance, advice was given as to the necessity for segregation, which the chiefs promised to follow.

Several small outbreaks of beri beri occurred during the year; 27 cases were treated at the Colonial Hospital, Freetown; 7 in the Kennema prison; and 10 in the W.A.F.F. Barracks at Daru.

In each case the cause of the disease was attributed to the use of imported Indian rice. The necessity for importing Indian rice is dealt with under the head "Increases in Imports." It was noticeable that where this rice was freely used by the people, beri beri symptoms became prevalent, though the disease is not, under normal conditions, often met with in Sierra Leone.

Climate.

General remarks as to the climate of Sierra Leone will be found in the Report for 1909.

In 1910, the minimum humidity was reached in January, when it registered 55.

The lowest temperature in Freetown during the year was 66·8°, and this occurred on the 8th June and 9th October, practically the beginning and end of the rains; the highest temperature was 99·4° on the 22nd March. The months of highest mean temperature were February 90·7°, March 91·4°, April 92·2°, and May 90·2°; those of the lowest mean temperature were January 71·2°, July 71·7°, August 71·7°, September 72·1°, and October 71·8°.

The greatest variation in the barometer during the year was ·361 inch, the highest reading being in May, 29·980 inches, and the lowest in July, 29·619 inches. The total rainfall in Freetown during the year was 133·44 inches, as compared with 139·97 inches in 1909. At Kaballa, the headquarters of the Koinadugu District, it was 89·92 inches.

The greatest rainfall for any one month was in July, when 43·24 inches fell, 4·99 inches falling in one day.

Rain fell in Freetown on 170 days during the year as compared with 189 in 1909.

The 170 days were distributed as follows:—

March	3
April	4
May	15
June	24
July	31
August	30
September	24
October	23
November	11
December	5
	170

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The total revenue collected at the Post Office and Savings Bank Department for the year amounted to £14,346, as compared with £13,830 in 1909. Of this sum, £2,325 was for Customs Duty on parcels, as compared with £1,984 in 1909.

The expenditure, including interest paid to Savings Bank depositors, amounted to £12,403, as compared with £11,781 in 1909. The total number of postal articles and parcels handled during the year amounted to 1,415,493, as compared with 1,328,923 in 1909, and was made up as follows:—

Letters	908,819
Post Cards	87,341
Newspapers and Books	382,517
Parcels	36,816
Total	1,415,493

The purely postal articles (that is, exclusive of parcels) handled were 81,139 more than were handled last year.

153,598 letters passed through the registration branch of the department as compared with 149,020 in 1909.

The following is a statement of the postal articles and parcels received and despatched during the year from and to the places named:—

	Received.	Despatched.
United Kingdom	421,484	244,254
Other West African Colonies and Countries	190,239	152,087
Postal Districts in the Colony and Protectorate	165,808	241,611
	777,531	637,952

There were 23,332 parcels received from, and 3,832 parcels despatched beyond the limits of, the Colony, and 9,652 parcels handled between the several postal districts of the Colony, making a total of 36,816 parcels dealt with during the year, as compared with 33,385 in 1909.

Of the 23,332 parcels received from beyond the limits of the Colony, 1,362 were insured; and of the 3,832 despatched beyond the limits of the Colony 230 were insured.

17,675 parcels, of the value of £20,924, were received from, and 1,755, of the value of £2,542, despatched to, the United Kingdom; and 5,657, of the value of £4,148, were received from, and 2,077, of the value of £1,480, despatched to, the other West African colonies and countries.

The value of the parcels handled between the several postal districts of the Colony amounted to £6,598, making a total of £35,692.

12,784 money orders, of the value of £122,332, were issued and paid during the year, as compared with 12,811, of the value of £110,199, in 1909. Of this number, 7,428, of the value of £75,775, were received within the Colony, and 902, of the value of £6,968, were received from beyond the limits of the Colony.

There were 3,985 orders, of the value of £35,932, sent to, and 485, of the value of £3,057, received from, the United Kingdom; and 469 orders, of the value of £3,992, sent to, and

417, of the value of £2,975, received from, the other West African Colonies and countries.

There were 5,897 orders, of the value of £55,594, received from, and 1,531, of the value of £20,180, sent to, the several offices in the Colony and Protectorate.

42,727 postal orders, of the value of £35,007, were dealt with during the year, as compared with 48,062, of the value of £27,874, dealt with in 1909. This shows a decrease of 5,335 in number, but an increase of £7,133 in value.

Of these, 18,019 orders, of the value of £18,140, were sold, as compared with 28,571, of the value of £15,177, sold in 1909, or an increase of £2,963 in value, and a decrease of 10,552 in the number.

24,708 orders, of the value of £16,867, were paid, as compared with 19,491, of the value of £12,697, paid in 1909, an increase of 5,217 in the number and of £4,170 in the value.

General information concerning cables and telegraphs will be found on page 54 of the Report for 1909.

The revenue derived during the year by the Government from telegrams amounted to £1,628, as compared with £1,297 in 1909.

IX.—PROTECTORATE.

General information concerning the "House Tax," the "Court Messengers," "Land Tenure," "Spread of Mohammedanism," and "Game" will be found in the Report for 1909.

In 1910, £49,703 was collected in respect of House Tax as compared with £47,580 in 1909.

The strength of the Court Messengers in 1910 was 199. The cost of the force amounted to £4,353.

The Mohammedans in the Colony now amount to 11,451, as compared with 7,666 in 1901—an increase of 3,785. During the past year Mohammedanism has been rapidly increasing in the Protectorate. The Mohammedans attach some importance to the fact that a prominent female Mende Chief has become a convert from paganism to Islam.

Mohammedan teachers, both Arabic and native, are trying in various parts of the Protectorate to establish schools on their own account.

Game.

The following were reported as shot by holders of licences during the year:—Elephants 7, bush cow 1, water buck 8, duiker 4, cobus cob 8, cob (Buffon's) 5, hippopotami 2, bush buck 5, wart hog 1, red hog 1, oribi 4.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the 15th of December, 1910, Their Royal Highnesses The Duke of Connaught, The Duchess of Connaught, and Princess Patricia, and suite, landed in Freetown on their way to England from their visit to South Africa, and received a loyal and a hearty welcome. It was my privilege to be administering the Government, and I had the great honour, as His Majesty's representative, of receiving Their Royal Highnesses.

Their Royal Highnesses were received by a guard of honour furnished by the 2nd Battalion of the West India Regiment.

Leaving the wharf for the Wilberforce Memorial Hall, a procession of hammocks was formed—this being the only means of locomotion in this Colony. The hall was crowded with over 500 people, representing the citizens of Freetown and the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, as well as the European community and Chiefs from the Protectorate.

A large concourse of people filled the square outside and were able to hear the following message which His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to send, through His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, to his people in Sierra Leone:—

> "I am delighted that on your return from South Africa you are able to visit my ancient and loyal Colony of Sierra Leone.
>
> "From the reports of the Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, who has just relinquished his post after several years of successful administration, I am glad to know of the progress of the Colony and the Protectorate both in civilization and in wealth.
>
> "It is particularly gratifying to notice that the efforts of the Medical Staff, supported by the chiefs and people, have resulted in a marked improvement in the health of the community. I ask you to make it known to my subjects throughout the Colony, with what interest I watch over their welfare and that I trust that they may be blessed with peace, happiness, and prosperity."

At the Hall, His Royal Highness the Duke received and replied to addresses from the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

From the Wilberforce Memorial Hall, Their Royal Highnesses proceeded in hammocks through the street lined with troops, school children, and cheering crowds.

The crowds were a curious medley of well dressed "creoles," the followers of the Protectorate Chiefs in gaily coloured gowns, and people from the adjacent villages dressed in a fashion half-native, half-European.

On entering the grounds of Government House, His Royal Highness was received by a guard of honour composed of 100 men of the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force, under the command of Captain Thorne and Lieutenant Gilbert. His Royal Highness displayed a special interest in this guard of honour, and expressed his satisfaction at their smart appearance.

During their stay at Government House, Their Royal

Highnesses received addresses from the Mahommedans of Freetown, the Protectorate Chiefs, the Clergy, the Freemasons, and the ladies of Freetown—the last named presenting Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia with albums containing views of Freetown—His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught then replied to the addresses, and again delivered His Majesty's gracious message.

Leaving Government House, Their Royal Highnesses proceeded to the site of the new Law Courts, where His Royal Highness laid the foundation stone.

After the official programme was over, I took the Royal Party to Hill Station, and they expressed their pleasure at the magnificent view of the surrounding country.

All classes of His Majesty's subjects evinced their gratitude, loyalty, and devotion to His Majesty the King by the enthusiastic welcome they gave to their Royal Highnesses, and they feel most sensibly, and acknowledge gratefully, the honour which has been conferred upon them, first, by His Majesty's gracious message to them, and secondly, by the visit to Sierra Leone of Their Royal Highnesses. Both events will have a very good effect on the Colony and Protectorate. The chiefs who were present were very sensible of the great importance of the visit, and thoroughly realised the honour of being allowed to shake hands with a member of the Royal House. His Majesty's gracious message and the account of the visit have spread to every corner of the Colony and Protectorate.

State of Railways and Roads.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles.

The number of stations and flag-stations on the railway is 45.

There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Roruks, a distance of 20½ miles.

An extension is now in progress from Roruks to the River Rokelle, a distance of about 50 miles. This extension is expected to be completed at the end of 1912, at the cost of £130,000.

A mountain line, 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. Hill Station is 900 feet above sea level.

There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus with the Government wharf, Government quarry, Public Works Department, and the Recreation Ground.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total receipts for the year amounted to £101,610, as compared with £84,229 in 1909, being an increase of £17,381. The estimated revenue for 1910 was £86,500, which was subsequently increased to £98,290, so that the revenue exceeded the revised estimate by £3,320. The gross expenditure amounted to £79,846, as compared with £81,086 in 1909, being a decrease of £1,240. The estimated expenditure for 1910 was £80,923 or £1,077 more than the actual expenditure.

The results of the year's working are very good, the revenue for the first time in the history of the line exceeding £100,000.

The working expenses amounted to £66,768. The profit on the working of the main and branch lines amounted to £36,576. This is considerably more than double the profit of any previous year.

The following statement shows the allocation of the working expenses:—

	£
Way and Works	19,778
Locomotive	23,733
Traffic	12,857
General	7,631
Tram lines	2,769
Capital expenditure paid from Revenue	13,078
	£79,846

The total number of passengers carried during the year was 345,762, being an increase of 22,356 over the number carried in 1909.

53,425 tons of goods were carried during the year, as compared with 45,340 tons carried during 1909.

249,493 train miles were run during the year, as compared with 255,044 run in 1909.

The total receipts for the main line amounted to £97,257, as compared with £80,985 in 1909.

The expenditure on the main line amounted to £59,991 in 1910, as compared with £60,759 in 1909.

The total receipts for the Mountain Railway amounted to £2,274, as compared with £2,133 in 1909, and the expenditure amounted to £4,007, as compared with £3,404 in 1909.

The receipts in respect of the Boia tram line, during 1910, amounted to £1,460, and the expenditure to £2,171; and the receipts in respect of the Pendembu tram line amounted to £619 while the expenditure was £598.

The receipts per train mile were 8*s*. 1·74*d*., as compared with 6*s*. 7·24*d*. in 1909.

The expenditure per train mile was 5*s*. 4·23*d*., as compared with 5*s*. 3·41*d*. in 1909, and the expenditure per open mile was £261 16*s*. 7·94*d*., as compared with £267 10*s*. 9·64*d*. in 1909.

The roads in the Protectorate are of various classes, those constructed by the Government being known as 1st and 5th class roads, and being maintained by the Roads Department of the Public Works Department.

There are four first class roads running in a northerly direction from Bo, Blama, Hangha, and Segbwema, all of which are important trading stations on the main line of the railway.

The total length of these roads is about 61 miles; all the bridges are of a permanent character, constructed of concrete abutment and wing walls, with steel girders.

The fifth class roads are of a somewhat similar character to the first class roads: but, except in a few isolated cases, the bridges are of native construction only, and are generally known as "stick bridges." They form continuations in a northerly direction of the first class roads, and others run in a southerly direction from Baiima to Malema. Other roads, similar to the above, run from the Yonni terminus, in a northerly direction to Massimera, near the Rokelle River; in a north-westerly direction to Robekki; and in a north-easterly direction to Rogbese and Roting.

All these roads are much used and are of considerable importance in feeding the railway. Their total length, exclusive of first class roads, is about 190 miles.

In addition to the above, there are many good roads known as "improved" roads, constructed and maintained by the paramount chiefs, acting under the direction of the District Commissioner. They form excellent means of communication between the various districts and chiefdoms, and are of much use in bringing traffic down to the railway.

There is also a network of native bush paths and tracks, connecting the towns and villages in the Protectorate, many of them being wide enough to permit of the use of a hammock.

Subsidies are paid to the chiefs for the upkeep of the improved roads, at rates varying from 10*s*. to 20*s*. a mile, the chiefs constructing their own bridges.

Public Works Department.

The work undertaken by the Public Works Department during 1910 greatly exceeded that of previous years.

The expenditure for recurrent works amounted to £12,665, and for extraordinary works to £22,029.

The construction and upkeep of the main roads in the Protectorate were taken over on the 1st January, 1910, by the Public Works Department from the Railway Department. The Department was reorganised during the year and the staff considerably increased. The additional appointments made in 1910 include an engineer in charge of the Protectorate roads, a European storekeeper, a European fitter in charge of the running plant and the working of the stone quarry; two general foremen of works (there are now four general foremen of works); and a foreman of works for steel work. Steam drills and a stone breaker, &c., have been erected at the syenite quarry at the Botanic Station, and an ample supply of broken stone of excellent quality was thus rendered available for concrete works of all kinds.

A motor lorry, ordered in 1909, was received in 1910, and has been found very useful in transporting materials rapidly and economically.

The installation of an oil engine to drive the circular saw and planing machine has resulted in the department turning out greatly improved carpentry and at a less cost than formerly.

Incinerators for the destruction of refuse were constructed in convenient situations in Freetown. Twenty-four dustbins were erected, and six open-air laundries built.

A permanent bridge was constructed over the Congo Stream, near Congo Town, on the road to Aberdeen. The bridge has a waterway of 84 feet.

A new road was constructed, branching off from the Hill Station road near the rifle range at Brookfields and joining the high level road between Wilberforce Barracks and Hill Station. It forms an alternative route to Hill Station and forms the northern boundary of the Hill Station Reservation area.

The road from Waterloo to York Pass, the temporary headquarters of the District Commissioner, Headquarters District, was improved, and concrete bridges and culverts built over several streams.

£1,796 was spent on the erection of new buildings, &c., at Kissy Asylum.

£817 was spent on minor improvements to drains and streets in Freetown. This vote is for work recommended to be carried out by the sanitary officer.

The prison at Moyamba was completed during 1910. It provides accommodation for 44 prisoners. The building is constructed with stone walls, concrete floors, reinforced concrete ceiling, and corrugated iron roof.

The administration block of the new prison in Freetown was erected during the year. On the ground floor is the main entrance corridor to the male prison, side corridor to the entrance of the female prison, gate-keeper's room, warders' mess room, guard room, rooms for searching prisoners, and room for persons visiting prisoners. On the first floor are quarters for the warder in charge and offices for the Superintendent of Prisons and his staff. The warders' quarters have a separate entrance outside the prison wall, and no communication is possible with the other portion of the administration block or the prison, except by the main prison entrance.

The new prison hospital was commenced during the year.

The administration block is constructed of concrete blocks on the ground floor facing Pademba Road, with laterite stone walls on the other three sides and for the whole of the upper storey. The roof is of " eternit " slates.

Considerable progress was made during the year with the new building for the Parcels Post and Accounts Branch of the General Post Office.

The building of a stone house for the Assistant District Commissioner, Northern Sherbro District, was undertaken on a site a considerable elevation on the spur of Gunduma Hill near the village of Bangbama. Good progress was made with this building.

A rest-house was built at Bo during the year at a cost of £265; it is constructed of mud bricks with concrete angle pillars, and it has a concrete floor. The roof is of corrugated iron and a native thatch roof is built over this to make the building as cool as possible.

The construction of a new Supreme Court and legal offices was started during the year. The foundation stone of this building was laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on the 15th December.

An office and court house for the District Commissioner of the Headquarters District was built at Waterloo. The building is constructed of laterite, with a concrete floor, and corrugated iron roof.

The District Commissioner's office and court house at York Pass were completed during the year. A lock-up, store room, and guard room were built of laterite, with concrete floor and ceiling and corrugated iron roof, and Court Messengers' quarters, and Clerks and Interpreters' quarters of native construction with thatched roofs were also built.

The jetty at Bonthe was extended by a length of 74 feet 6 inches. The extension is constructed of cast iron screw piles with trough iron decking, and it has greatly facilitated the landing of cargo at Bonthe at all states of the tides.

£710 was spent on the construction of three reservoirs at Bonthe. These reservoirs are built of reinforced concrete, and each has a capacity of 14,000 gallons.

The supply of water is obtained from the rainfall collected by the concrete roofs of the reservoirs and a galvanised iron collecting surface has been erected alongside each reservoir to increase the supply.

£784 was expended on the completion of the reconstruction of Freetown Wharf Wall.

Donkey Transport.

The experiment in donkey transport referred to on page 62 of the Report for 1909 has proved a failure. Twenty-four donkeys were imported from the Gambia, and arrived in this Colony on the 5th May. They were at once taken to Port Lokko, in the Karene District, and, by the 19th October, eighteen of the donkeys had died of the following diseases:—Colic 2, paralysis 1, verminous aneurism and worms 2, filariasis 1, and trypanosomiasis 12. One had died from an accident, and, of those remaining, one had trypanosomiasis and one filaria. The experiment was then given up, and the remaining donkeys were handed over to an intelligent native chief, who undertook to look after them.

It must be explained that, before the twenty-four animals left the Gambia, they were all tested with mallein for glanders, and there were no reactions; the blood of each one was also subjected to a careful microscopical examination, and no trypanosomes were found, so that only healthy animals were brought into Sierra Leone.

The experiment was conducted under conditions as nearly as possible approaching those which would obtain under native ownership, and, with regard to disease, no special preventive measures were adopted except those that the natives themselves were capable of adopting.

Though it is the opinion of the veterinary surgeon under whose supervision the experiment was carried out that the donkeys were introduced into the Colony at an unfavourable time, namely, during the rainy season, there is little doubt that the place chosen for the experiment was also unsuitable. The stables were at the top of a hill about 800 yards from a creek, with a small stream on each side about a quarter of a mile from the compound, and there was bush on all sides. But, even under the most favourable conditions, the tse-tse fly, which spreads trypanosomiasis, is too active in Sierra Leone to admit of the safe keeping of animals in any part of the Colony or Protectorate. Even in Freetown, horses, mules, and dogs die of the disease.

The failure of the above experiment would appear to postpone indefinitely the solution of the problem of animal transport in Sierra Leone. The solving of this problem would have meant the solving of others materially affecting the welfare of the Colony, such as the increased output of palm kernels, and the releasing of labour now used in head transportation of palm products for use on the farms, and for collecting more palm kernels.

It now appears that the problem can only be solved by the introduction of motor transport.

Future Prospects of Trade.

The outlook is favourable. The principal domestic products are plentiful and the prices paid locally, though they show a tendency to decline, are still good.

From all the trading centres the reports are bright and encouraging, and there is no reason to anticipate a check in the expansion of trade generally.

A very large proportion of the palm kernels grown are wasted because they are not sufficiently near to the railway or a port of shipment to make the gathering profitable. The scope for the extension of the industry could be greatly extended but for the scarcity of labour. At present, all the produce has to be taken to the railway or rivers by head labour, so that with every new area opened up by road or railway, an additional output of palm produce can be confidently expected.

The output of palm produce has increased considerably since the opening of the branch line to Roruks, and, as the line which is at present under construction will penetrate into the heart of the produce country, a further increase in the output of palm produce will inevitably follow.

A product of the palm tree which is not generally known is the fibre. This fibre is of very good quality and realises as much as £60 a ton in the Liverpool market. It is the only fibre that is sufficiently fine and strong to make fishing lines, and this is the only use to which it has been put by the natives. It is obtained from the young pinnæ, the older leaves being too strong and coarse to permit of the extraction of the fibre by hand. The process of extraction by hand labour is laborious and unremunerative, but it is possible that a mechanical or chemical process may be introduced which will produce the fibre at a remunerative cost. There is an enormous supply of material in the country which at present rots on the ground, and which might be turned to profitable account.

As stated under the head of "Exports," the export of kola nuts has increased in 1910 in quantity by 189 tons, and in value by £38,023, as compared with 1909; and the demand appears to be steadily increasing, owing to the rapid development of the

West Coast of Africa by railways, roads, &c. The industry, during 1910, appears to have spread in some measure beyond the control of the traders of the Colony and Protectorate, as for a few months in that year, Portuguese and natives from the neighbouring West African Colonies came to Sierra Leone and purchased large quantities of kola nuts at prices favourable to local sellers.

There are two classes of exporters engaged in the kola nut industry: one consisting of the well established European houses and the other of native itinerant traders.

The former class ship their consignments to well recognised firms at the port of destination, making the usual margin of profit on goods sold at wholesale rates, but the native itinerant traders make, it is estimated, a profit, after allowing for every conceivable expense, of 214 per cent. Last year it is calculated that their profits rose to 316 per cent. It is an industry which only affects the West Coast of Africa. Of the total quantity exported, 1,312 tons were consigned to the Gambia, Senegal, Boulama, and Bissao: and the remaining 10 tons to Europe.

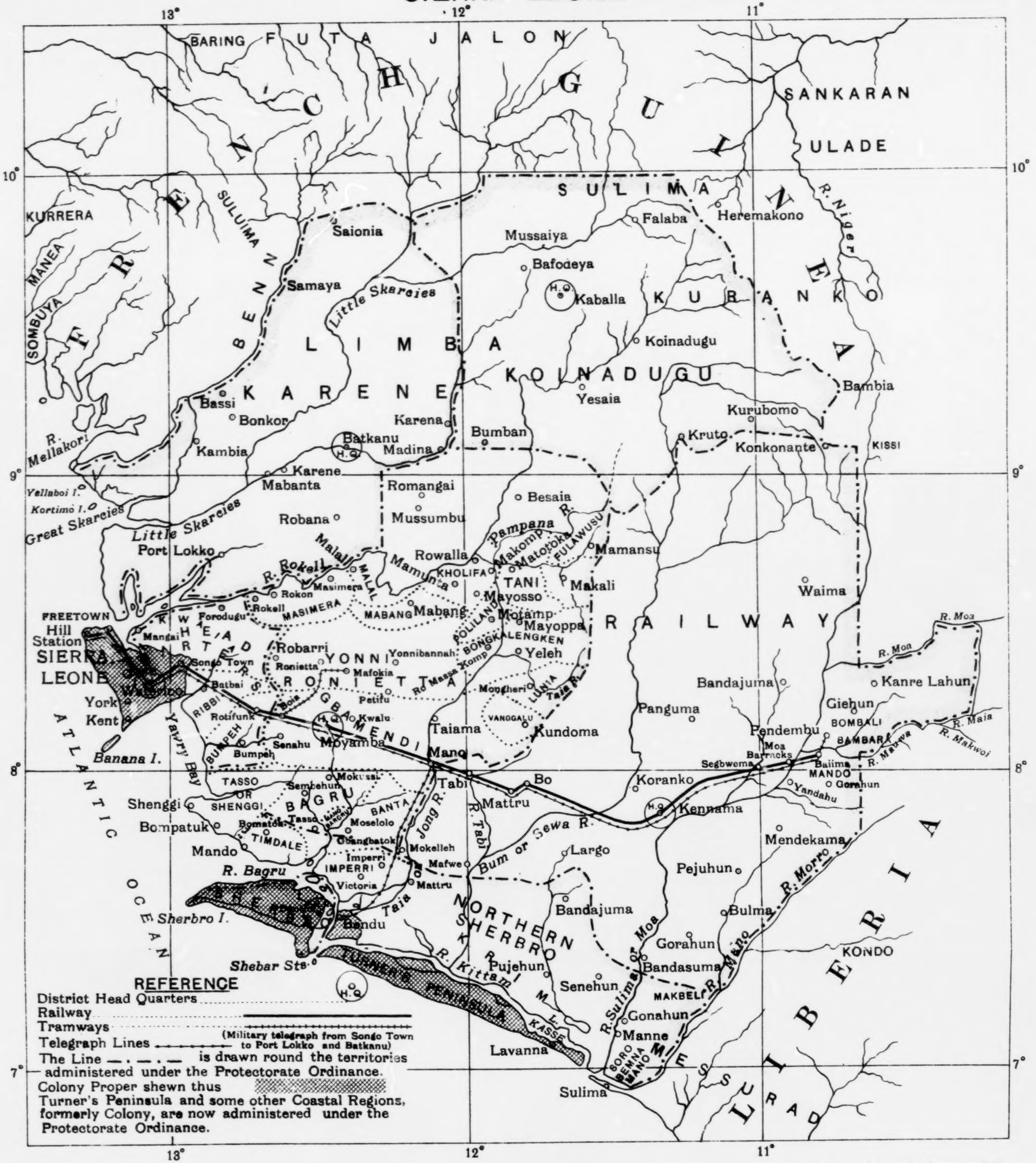
There is no doubt that the systematic cultivation of the kola nut would prove a remunerative investment, as no preparation of the product is required. It is ready for sale and consumption as soon as the fruit is picked.

Further particulars as to openings for investment of capital will be found on page 63 of the Report for 1909.

G. B. Haddon Smith,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
29th August, 1911.

SIERRA LEONE



13°
12°
11°
10°
9°
8°
7°
BARING
FUTA JALON
FRENCH GUINEA
SANKARAN
ULADE
R. Niger
KURRERA
MANEA
SOMBUYA
SULUIMA
BENNA
SULIMA
Saionia
Samaya
Little Skarcies
Falaba
Heremakono
Mussaiya
Bafodeya
H.Q.
Kaballa
KURANKO
Koinadugu
LIMBA
KARENE
KOINADUGU
Yesaia
Bambia
Bassi
Bonkor
Kambia
R. Mellakori
Karena
Batkanu
Madina
Bumban
Kurubomo
Kruto
Konkonante
KISSI
Karene
Mabanta
Romangai
Mussumbu
Besaia
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
Great Skarcies
Little Skarcies
Robana
Port Lokko
Pampana R.
Makomp R.
Matotoka
FULAWUSU
Mamansu
Rowalla
R. Rokell
Malal
MALAL
Mamunta
KHOLIFA
TANI
Makali
Waima
Rokon
Masimera
Mayosso
FREETOWN
Hill Station
KWEAH
Forodugu
Rokell
MASIMERA
MABANG
Mabang
Matamp
POLILANDA
BONGKALENGKEN
Mayoppa
RAILWAY
R. Moa
Mangai
Robarri
YONNI
Yonnibannah
Yeleh
R. Moa
SIERRA LEONE
Songo Town
Ronietta
Mafokia
RONIETTA
Ro Masa Komp
Mongheri
LUNIA
Taia R.
Bandajuma
Kanre Lahun
Giehun
Waterloo
York
Kent
Batbai
RIBBI
Bois
GBOMENDI
Petifu
Rotifunk
Kwalu
VANGGALU
Kundoma
Panguma
Pendembu
BOMBALI
BAMBARA
R. Maia
R. Mahwoi
R. Magwa
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Banana I.
Yawry Bay
BUMPEH
Bumpeh
Senahu
Moyamba
Taiama
Mano
Moa Barracks
Segbwema
Baiima
MANDO
Gorahun
TASSO OR SHENGGI
Mokussi
Sembehun
Tabi
Bo
Koranko
Yandahu
Shenggi
Bompatuk
SHENGGI
BAGRU
BANTA
Tasso
Bomatoke
TIMDALE
Moselolo
Gbangbatok
Jong R.
R. Tabi
Mattru
Bum or Sewa R.
Kennama
Mendekama
LIBERIA
Mando
Imperri
IMPERRI
Mokelleh
Mafwe
Largo
Pejuhun
R. Bagru
Victoria
Mattru
Bandajuma
Bulma
R. Morro
Sherbro I.
SHERBRO
Bandu
Taia R.
NORTHERN SHERBRO
Gorahun
Bandasuma
KONDO
Shebar Sts.
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
Pujehun
Senehun
R. Sulima or Moa
MAKBELE
R. Mano
Gonahun
KRIM
KASSE
Manne
Lavanna
SORO
GENNA
MANO
MESURADO
Sulima
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
Railway
Tramways
Telegraph Lines (Military telegraph from Songo Town to Port Lokko and Batkanu)
The Line — · — · — is drawn round the territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.
Colony Proper shewn thus ▨
Turner's Peninsula and some other Coastal Regions, formerly Colony, are now administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	"
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	1910–11
691	Hong Kong	1910
692	Nyasaland	1910–11
693	Seychelles	1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.

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1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 724.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 694.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1912.

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No. 724.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 694.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
16th July, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1911, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. E. Evelyn, I.S.O.

I have, &c.,

G. B. HADDON SMITH,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1911.

Sierra Leone is situated on the West Coast of Africa between 6° 55′ and 10° north latitude and between 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of west longitude, and consists of two parts:—

(*a*) The Colony of Sierra Leone, and
(*b*) The Protectorate.

Sierra Leone has a coast line of 210 miles, extending between 6° 55′ and 9° 2′ of north latitude, from the territory of the Republic of Liberia on the south-east where the Mano River forms the boundary, as far as Kiragba on the north-west.

It is bounded on the north and north-east by French Guinea; on the south-east by the Republic of Liberia; and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

The estimated area of the Colony and Protectorate is about 31,000 square miles. According to the Census of 1911 the population of the Colony amounted to 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females), while that of the Protectorate is estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10 according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate:—

Mendis	442,524	Autocthonous and semi-autocthonous Pagan Groups.
Lokkos	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis) ...	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	
Foulahs	11,500	Northern invading and Mohammedanising Groups.
Mandingos	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Timinis	347,229	
Limbas	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
Total	1,323,151	

The Colony and Protectorate are divided for administrative purposes into the following districts:—

Freetown Police District.
Headquarters District.—Headquarters, Waterloo.
Karene ,, ,, Batkanu.
Ronietta ,, ,, Moyamba.
Railway ,, ,, Kennema
Koinadugu ,, ,, Kaballa.
Sherbro ,, ,, Bonthe.
Northern Sherbro ,, ,, Bandajuma.

The Freetown Police District and the Sherbro District are entirely within the Colony, while the Headquarters District embraces part of the Protectorate as well as the remainder of the Colony. The other five districts are entirely within the Protectorate. There are also two sub-districts, Konnoh and Kanre Lahun, in the Railway District; two, Imperri and Shengay, in the Northern Sherbro District; and one, Port Lokko, in the Karene District.

The principles underlying the administration of the Protectorate have been to recognise, as between natives, the use of native customary law; to preserve the authority of the native rulers; to strengthen the just and lawful exercise of that authority, while preventing all acts of aggression; and to grant to all non-natives in the Protectorate the protection of the English law, to which they had formerly been accustomed.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1911 amounted to £457,759, as compared with the estimate of £391,725. This return indicates an increase of £33,544 over the revenue received for 1910, and is in excess of the expenditure of the year under notice by £25,311, inclusive of the payment out of revenue of the sum of £45,306 on the construction of the Rowalla Railway extension.

This record is very satisfactory and reaches the highest point yet attained in Sierra Leone, but the figures do not appear to demand any special observations, as they are only a natural reflex from the general agricultural and commercial expansion adumbrated elsewhere in this report.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of revenue as compared with the preceding year:—

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1911.			Revenue for 1910.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	242,324	8	0	226,315	3	4	16,009	4	8		—	
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	5,502	19	9	4,620	15	6	882	4	3		—	
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	66,889	16	6	62,935	12	0	3,954	4	6		—	

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1911.			Revenue for 1910.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, Reimbursements-in-Aid.	14,059	3	10	12,324	9	0	1,734	14	10	—		
Post Office and Savings Bank.	8,807	2	9	7,081	9	11	1,725	12	10	—		
Rents on Government Property.	436	3	0	500	2	4	—			63	19	4
Interest	10,339	10	8	7,698	7	5	2,641	3	3	—		
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,448	8	3	589	15	10	858	12	5	—		
Railway	107,925	6	1	99,946	3	1	7,979	3	0	—		
Tramways*	—			2,079	3	5	—			2,079	3	5
Land Sales	26	7	0	124	7	6	—			98	0	6
Total	457,759	5	10	424,215	9	4	35,784	19	9	2,241	3	3

* Merged in Head Railway.

The total revenue for the five years, 1907-1911, was as follows:—

	£
1907	359,104
1908	320,999
1909	361,326
1910	424,215
1911	457,759

Expenditure.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure as compared with the preceding year:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1911.			Expenditure for 1910.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charge on account of Public Debt.	61,335	12	4	60,003	8	10	1,332	3	6	—		
Pensions	7,291	12	11	6,616	17	9	674	15	2	—		
The Governor and Legislature.	5,771	13	10	6,804	0	11	—			1,032	7	1
Colonial Secretary's Department.	5,530	16	8	4,844	6	0	686	10	8	—		
Provincial Administration	31,288	15	2	29,579	9	10	1,709	5	4	—		
Treasury	3,929	14	0	3,732	5	6	197	8	6	—		
Customs Department ...	13,636	12	1	13,231	12	8	404	19	5	—		
Audit Department	2,417	7	6	2,578	9	4	—			161	1	10
Port and Marine Department.	1,391	1	0	1,268	9	4	122	11	8	—		
Legal Departments... ...	7,965	4	11	7,276	3	2	689	1	9	—		
Civil Police	8,871	18	3	8,893	13	9	—			21	15	6
Prisons	7,491	13	7	7,210	15	8	280	17	11	—		
Medical Departments ...	22,682	14	9	23,719	15	3	—			1,037	0	6
Sanitary Department ...	3,712	8	7	—			3,712	8	7	—		
Education	8,521	3	3	8,414	13	6	106	9	9	—		
Miscellaneous Services ...	19,127	0	8	20,341	16	1	—			1,214	15	5

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1911.			Expenditure for 1910.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Post Office	11,301	5	7	10,505	3	4	796	2	3	—		
Agricultural Department ...	1,917	18	4	2,035	6	1	—			117	7	9
Forestry Department ...	2,191	0	1	—			2,191	0	1	—		
Public Works Department	8,432	15	5	6,790	4	5	1,642	11	0	—		
" " Recurrent...	17,015	2	9	12,665	8	3	4,349	14	6	—		
" " Extraordinary	33,119	16	3	22,029	3	1	11,090	13	2	—		
West African Frontier Force	22,413	19	2	20,633	8	4	1,780	10	10	—		
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	79,784	14	5	77,976	3	0	1,808	11	5	—		
Tramways*	—			2,649	2	7	—			2,649	2	7
Central Railway Construction.	45,306	6	5	1,422	12	10	43,883	13	7	—		
Total	432,448	7	11	361,222	9	6	77,459	9	1	6,233	10	8

* Merged in Head Sierra Leone Government Railway.

The total expenditure for the years 1907-1911 was as follows:—

	£
1907	345,567
1908	341,871
1909	336,746
1910	361,222
1911	432,448

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings chargeable to loan funds amounted to £700, the principal items contributing to this expenditure being for—

(1) Freetown Wharf construction.
(2) Jetties—Freetown Wharf.

The total expenditure on works and undertakings chargeable to loan amounted at the end of the year to £1,188,965, leaving a balance of £10,112 available for completing any works on hand.

It should be observed that an amount of £3,759 originally charged to loan funds has during the year been transferred to an account styled "Advances—Loan Conversion Account," thereby increasing the amount of the last cited item still available.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities was increased to the extent of the surplus of the year's transactions, and amounted on the 31st December, 1911, to £244,079, of which £149,961 is invested in securities, £37,000 is in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies at interest, while £43,036 represents the value of stores on hand in the Railway (Open Lines), Railway Extension, and Public Works Department.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,255,101, which is made up as follows:—

	£
4 per cent. ten year Convertible Bonds ...	530,000
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1929-1954 ...	725,101
Total	£1,255,101

During the year the liability in respect of this funded debt was reduced by £7,400, being the value of bonds redeemed out of the Sinking Fund.

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund on the 31st December, 1911, were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bonds	0	8	6
Stock	34,389	5	4
Total	£34,389	13	10

The net liability of the Colony in respect of its Funded Debt, after allowing for the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds, was on that date £1,220,711 6*s.* 2*d.*

Currency.

Vide pages 8 and 9 of the Report for 1909.*

General.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1911, was £5,792. The revenue collected during the year from this source amounted to £2,879, thus making a total of £8,671.

The expenditure on various improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected amounted to £3,463, leaving a balance on the 31st December, 1911, of £5,208 available for further improvements.

The amount standing to the credit of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was £1,125, of which a sum of £727 has been invested.

Municipalities.

Freetown Municipality.

The gross revenue of the Municipality during the financial year (1st November, 1910, to 31st October, 1911) amounted to £12,070, while the gross expenditure during the same period was £11,172.

These returns show an increase of £757 and of £137 over the corresponding returns for the preceding financial year. An inspection, however, of the net revenue and expenditure figures for the year reveals a deficit of £169 on the year's working, while the total net debt of the Municipality has now reached an aggregate of £1,317.

---

* Colonial Report—Annual, No. 648.

To this latter amount has also to be added a further sum of £1,118, which represents the present total of the annual contributions of one per cent. paid by the Municipality to the Government towards the extinction of the Waterworks Loan. This sum has hitherto not been accounted for as final expenditure, but it is nevertheless not available to meet the liabilities of the city.

The Municipality accounts disclose a grave condition of financial embarrassment, enhanced largely by the non-collection of rates amounting to a large sum which can now hardly be regarded as realisable, and the position assumes a still less favourable aspect when it is remarked that while the expenditure on personal emoluments and ordinary departmental votes follow the estimates closely, that devoted to public works, both in respect of construction and of upkeep, almost invariably falls far below the sum estimated to be expended on those objects.

The Municipality is in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from the Government of £1,800, and information regarding its debt, together with the provision for its repayment, will be found on page 10 of the report for 1909.

At the beginning of the financial year under survey, the Government advanced a further sum of £1,400 to the Municipality to relieve its pecuniary exigencies, which amount is included in the gross revenue return of £12,070 given above. This loan is subject to repayment without interest in five annual instalments commencing in 1912.

The following table shows the gross revenue (including the grant-in-aid) and the gross expenditure of the Municipality during the five years 1907-1911:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907	9,018	9,082
1908	9,118	8,851
1909	9,525	9,428
1910	11,313	11,035
1911	12,070	11,172

Sherbro Municipal Board.

The gross receipts of the Sherbro Municipal Board during the year 1911 amounted to £1,403, as compared with £1,723 in the preceding year; and the amount is made up as follows:—

	£
Balance from 1910	273
Grant-in-aid from general revenue for sanitary police	152
Grant-in-aid from Sherbro District House Tax Fund for general purposes	300
Local revenue from House Tax, Licences, Fees, Fines, &c., in the town of Bonthe	678
Total	£1,403

The expenditure of the Board on the maintenance of roads, drainage, and other necessary works, including salaries of staff and sanitary police, amounted to £920, as compared with £1,450 in 1910, thus leaving a balance of £483 to be carried forward to 1912.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the Sherbro Municipal Board for the years 1907-1911:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907	1,440	935
1908	1,411	1,021
1909	989	1,445
1910	1,688	1,450
1911	1,130	920

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Trade.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department during the year, after drawbacks and refunds had been deducted, amounted to £249,573, which exceeds the corresponding return for 1910 by £16,970. The gross revenue from import duties collected in the Sherbro District was £70,163, which shows an increase of £589 over that for the preceding year. The gross amount of customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import is given below in comparison with the figures for 1910:—

—	Years ended 31st December,		Increase or Decrease in 1911 compared with 1910.	
	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, Beer, and Porter	1,577	1,719	142	—
Cottons	30,062	28,808	—	1,254
Hats and Caps	1,393	1,397	4	—
Hardware	1,350	945	—	405
Iron Manufactures	1,882	2,060	178	—
Oil, Kerosene	5,941	10,413	4,472	—
Provisions	1,638	2,016	378	—
Salt	2,644	1,986	—	658
Spirits	111,887	120,736	8,849	—
Sugar	4,179	4,027	—	152
Tobacco, Manufactured ...	2,623	2,990	367	—
„ Unmanufactured ...	40,221	43,159	2,938	—
Wines	2,341	2,781	440	—
Woollens	1,361	1,394	33	—
Other minor imports taken collectively.	15,511	16,017	506	—
Aggregate receipts ...	224,610	240,448	18,307	2,469

The items mainly responsible for the increase in import duties during 1911 were kerosene oil, spirits, and unmanufactured tobacco, which together contributed 72·49 per cent. of the total receipts from that source. The decrease in cottons is due to the higher prices prevailing in Europe, which curtailed importation; while the decline in hardware is chiefly due to the carrying over of large stocks from 1910.

Imports.

Imports are valued for statistical purposes as they lie in the port of entry; such value consisting of invoice value, excluding trade discounts, but including cash and other special discounts, freight, insurance, and the value of the packages containing the goods. The total values of the imports for the five years 1907-11 are given below:—

	£
1907	988,022
1908	813,700
1909	974,581
1910	1,162,470
1911	1,267,231

Increases appear in every class of import, except in food for human consumption, which has decreased in value by £31,374; but this is due to the abnormal importations of rice in 1910 to meet the failure of the local rice crop of that year.

Greater consignments of coal for supplying steamships calling at the port of Freetown account for the majority of the advance in raw materials.

The importation of specie amounted to £217,832, showing a rise of £27,552. As stated on page 12 of the Report for 1910, the movement of specie to and from Sierra Leone is determined largely by outside influences; but this increase is a further indication of the expansion of trade which took place in 1911.

Government imports amounted to £76,673, being an advance of £47,574 over those of 1910, and representing 6·05 per cent. of the total imports.

This striking increase is due to the materials required for the railway extension and certain extraordinary public works, including the new Law Courts and the new prison.

The total value of imports reached an aggregate of £1,267,231, as against £1,162,470 in 1910.

Statistics analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony will be found in Appendix A at the end of this Report.

Exports.

Exports are valued for statistical purposes as they lie in port of shipment—such value including the cost of the packages containing the goods, together with all charges connected with the loading of the cargo, but exclusive of conveyance to the port of destination.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone.

The total value of exports in 1911 amounted to £1,300,238 as compared with £1,249,367 in 1910.

The following table exhibits the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1907-11:—

	£
1907	831,259
1908	736,755
1909	981,466
1910	1,249,367
1911	1,300,238

Of the total increase of £50,871 the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone yielded as much as £36,933.

Specie was exported to the value of £190,476, this representing a decrease of 4·45 per cent. as compared with the corresponding exportation in 1910. The decline is a favourable sign that money is now enjoying a freer and wider circulation, which causes a keener demand for cash, which in its turn results in the contraction of the amount available for export.

Apart from specie, the only categories in which a decrease appears are drink, the export of which has declined by the small sum of £162, and "miscellaneous and unclassified," where there is a fall from £3 to £2—a negligible item.

Increases in Exports.

Palm products.—In 1911 palm products constituted 72·39 per cent. of the domestic exports, and 65·53 per cent. of the total of all exports less specie—facts which make it clear to what extent the present prosperity of Sierra Leone is bound up with her palm industries and with the prices which the oil and kernels are able to command in the markets of Europe.

The export of palm oil exhibits an increase of 80,309 gallons, valued at £7,075; and out of a total exportation of 725,648 gallons 612,583 were consigned to the United Kingdom and 61,224 to Germany.

Kola nuts.—These rank as a principal export, second only to palm kernels. In 1911 the export figures reached the highest point hitherto recorded, namely 1,599 tons, valued at £194,312, representing an increase of 88 tons of a value of £2,370 over those for 1910. As much as 1,569 tons were consigned to other parts of West Africa. The demand for kola is increasing and the area of its cultivation is consequently being extended.

Ginger.—This industry is prospering. 1,692 tons, valued at £44,668, were exported, as compared with 1,093 tons, of a value of £33,288, in 1910; and of this quantity 1,688 tons were consigned to Liverpool.

Piassava.—The demand for piassava has revived. The best quality of this product comes from the Northern Sherbro District, where a branch of one of the largest bass dressing establishments in the United Kingdom is actively engaged in this industry.

The records of the export trade for 1911 are 906 tons, valued at £12,502, indicating an advance over those for 1910 of 271 tons, of a value of £3,660.

Hides.—9,101 more hides were exported in 1911 than in the previous year. This advance is attributable to the rapidly growing number of cattle killed for human consumption, the demand for meat having become stronger owing to the growth of the European community and to the increasing affluence of the native.

Decreases in Exports.

Palm kernels.—The amount of palm kernels exported was 139 tons less than in 1910, but the value of the exports was £12,664 higher than in that year.

This feature is due to the fulfilment in 1911 of contracts made in 1910 at high rates in anticipation of a further rise in the price of palm kernels in the European markets. That expectation, however, proved fallacious, as the prices in 1911 ranged only between £16 and £19 per ton, as compared with a movement between £17 and £20 in 1910.

Of a total exportation of 42,892 tons, 33,238 tons were consigned to Hamburg, a preponderance which is explained on page 19 of the Report for 1910.

Gum copal.—This export underwent a further decline owing to the low prices prevailing in Europe. 28 tons, valued at £2,966, were exported, as compared with 33 tons, of a value of £3,331, exported in 1910.

Reference is made to the prospects of this product on page 19 of the Report for 1909.

Rice.—22,620 bushels of Sierra Leone rice, valued at £4,715, were exported, as against 35,114 bushels, of a value of £5,925, in the preceding year.

The rice crop in 1911 was far superior to that of 1910; and the decrease under notice is entirely due to a keener demand for this rice for local consumption, which curtailed the residue available for export.

Rubber. The production of rubber in 1911 was the lowest recorded during the last ten years, only 16 tons, valued at £5,918, being exported.

The ruling average price in the markets of Europe was not sufficient to induce the natives to collect much rubber for export. Now that a Forestry Department has been instituted, it is hoped that, with the employment of more approved methods of cultivation and with a more rigorous superintendence of the growing plants and trees, better results will be achieved with this product. An English firm is cultivating a rubber estate in the neighbourhood of Waterloo.

General features of trade.

Although the labour unrest in England proved a disturbing element in the import trade of Sierra Leone by impeding the regular delivery of cargoes, the year under review was characterised by satisfactory increases both in the imports from and exports to the United Kingdom; while the aggregate trade with the United Kingdom reached the highest point hitherto attained, namely £1,264,387, or 49·25 per cent. of the total.

The United Kingdom is responsible for 75·03 per cent. of the total import trade and 24·12 per cent. of the total export trade.

The former percentage indicates a slight decline of ·23 per cent., and the latter an increase of 9·69 per cent., as compared with the corresponding figures for 1910; but the imports to the United Kingdom have nevertheless risen in value by £75,872.

The increased exports to the United Kingdom are chiefly due to larger consignments of palm kernels. Germany ranks second as an importer, with 11·22 per cent., and first in the export trade, with 40·37 per cent. of the total import and export trades respectively.

Allusion has been made earlier in this Report to one of the leading causes of this latter fact.

The imports from the United States of America have increased from ·39 to ·85 per cent. of the total import trade—an advance due to the establishment in 1911 of direct steamship communication with the United States of America, which led all importations by this service to be credited to the United States of America, while formerly they were credited to the European countries from which they were finally shipped to Sierra Leone. They consisted mainly of unmanufactured tobacco and kerosene oil.

The exports to other West African countries sustained a slight decline of 4·63 per cent., namely from 32·98 per cent. of the total export trade in 1910 to 28·35 per cent. in 1911.

The other variations do not appear to require comment.

Shipping.

The tonnage cited below is in every case the net register tonnage given on the vessel's certificate of registry.

858 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,248,455 tons, were entered; and 879 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,244,984 tons, were cleared.

When compared with the corresponding records for the previous year, a decrease of 34 vessels, but an increase of 252,052 tons, is shown in respect of vessels entered; while, as regards those cleared, a decrease of 64 vessels, but an increase of 247,097 tons, is shown.

These returns include 263 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,325 tons, entered, and 286, of an aggregate tonnage of 3,048 tons, cleared.

The corresponding figures for 1910 were:—Sailing vessels entered 404, aggregate tonnage 3,082; sailing vessels cleared 454, aggregate tonnage 2,733.

It will therefore be seen that the number of sailing vessels trading is perceptibly declining, the carrying trade passing more and more to the steamship companies.

The following table gives the number and tonnage of steam vessels (distinguishing nationality) entered during the years 1910 and 1911 respectively, together with the proportion per cent. contributed to the total tonnage by the ships of each nation:—

Nationality.	Steam vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.		Percentage proportion to total tonnage entered.	
	1910.		1911.						1910.	1911.
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	Tons	Tons
Belgian ...	35	77,691	35	146,822	14	69,131	—	—	7·82	11·78
British ...	371	770,459	418	855,512	47	85,053	—	—	77·57	68·66
Danich ...	2	2,609	—	—	—	—	2	2,609	·26	—
French ...	—	—	2	2,580	2	2,580	—	—	—	·20
German ...	88	134,591	130	232,638	42	98,042	—	—	13·55	18·67
Greek ...	1	1,256	4	5,024	3	3,768	—	—	·13	·40
Norwegian	1	31	3	111	2	80	—	—	·00	·01
Russian ...	—	—	2	1,664	2	1,664	—	—	—	·13
Spanish ...	4	6,684	1	1,834	—	—	3	4,850	·67	·15
Total...	488	993,321	595	1,246,130	112	260,268	5	7,459	100·00	100·00

The year 1911 discloses an advance of 107 steamships, of an aggregate tonnage of 252,809 tons, as compared with the previous year; but it has to be observed that an artificial restriction was imposed on the shipping in 1910 by the outbreaks of yellow fever in the Colony, which led mariners to avoid the port of Freetown as far as was practicable. Both British and foreign shipping share in the advance, but the returns of foreign shipping show the better results.

It will be seen that in 1911 the position of the United Kingdom was weakened by 8·91 per cent., while that of Germany improved by 5·12 per cent. Belgium occupies the third place.

The advance in German shipping is due partly to the larger carrying capacity of the German cargo steamers visiting Freetown in search of trade; but still more perhaps to the inclusion during the year of that port among the places of call of the express mail and passenger steamers of the Woermann line.

The passenger traffic to and from Sierra Leone of this line is rapidly growing, owing to its vessels' marked superiority over some of the British mail-boats in respect both of accommodation and of punctuality.

It is, however, satisfactory to state that the total number and tonnage of the steamships which entered the ports of the Colony under the British flag in 1911 were the largest reached hitherto and surpassed all former years by the widest margin yet recorded.

The subjoined table gives a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the years 1907-11:—

Year.	Inward.		Outward.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907	952	943,575	964	946,956
1908	951	1,021,803	959	1,024,249
1909	1,116	1,096,686	1,133	1,094,446
1910	892	996,403	943	997,887
1911	858	1,248,455	879	1,244,984

Agriculture.

In 1911, the old Agricultural Department, which was formerly incorporated with the Forestry Department, was reorganised and divided into the Agricultural and Forestry Departments, and two European officers were appointed on the staff of each.

A site of about 1,000 acres in area situated near Mano, in the Ronietta District, has been selected as the heeadquarters of the Agricultural Department. Part of it will be cleared before the next rainy season, so that the Department will commence experiments very shortly with the various native crops.

One of the objects of the Agricultural Department will be to evolve a practical rotation of crops which will enable the farmer to grow produce on his land for a longer period than has hitherto been possible.

The principal food of the natives in Sierra Leone is rice, of which there are many different varieties. These are divided into two main groups—hill rice and swamp rice. The former is grown on the farms without irrigation, and the latter is grown in the swamps or low-lying grounds adjacent to the rivers.

The different varieties will be carefully investigated, and an improvement in the method of cultivating ginger, maize, guinea corn, benni seed, cassava, and ground-nuts will also be attempted. It is further intended to establish experimental stations in each district, at which experiments will be carried out with a view to improve the local crops.

Cocoa is being grown both in the Colony and in the Protectorate, and there is reason to believe that this crop may eventually be a successful one, in spite of the long dry season of Sierra Leone.

In the Koinadugu District soya beans have been successfully cultivated, and further experiments will shortly be made with this product at the Mano headquarters.

The rice harvest in 1911 proved a marked improvement on that for 1910, although several of the farms in the Protectorate were not planted to their full capacity owing to a shortage of seed rice. In spite, however, of the increased production of rice, the market price in Freetown remained unusually high.

Special attention is also being paid to the cultivation of the castor oil plant and of benni seed, products which may eventually come to be of considerable importance.

Although great allowance will always have to be made for the peculiarities of the soil and the strong conservatism of the native farmer, it may in general be said that under the new régime and closer superintendence a considerable advance may be looked for in the agricultural development of Sierra Leone.

This impression gathers strength from the growing interest taken by the native chiefs in agricultural pursuits, a valuable index of which was discernible in the active support accorded by them to the Agricultural Show held in September, 1911, at Moyamba in the Ronietta District. This was the first exhibition of its kind and was supported financially both by the Government and by the Chiefs. It proved a great success in every way, and a proposal to make it an annual event in each district is now under consideration.

Imperial Institute.

Several samples of vegetable products were submitted for examination to the Imperial Institute in 1911, and reports were received on specimens of cocoa, the dried roots of the "bitter leaf tree," "indigo" and "Kpoye" kernels.

The market value of the cocoa was estimated at about 54/- per cwt. at Liverpool; an estimate which would have been higher had the beans been more thoroughly and uniformly fermented.

The "bitter leaf tree" was identified at Kew as *Vernonia Amygdalina*, Delile.

The dried leaf buds and young plants of *Lonchocarpus Cyanescens* were not favourably noticed; but the kernels of the "kpoye" tree, which was identified at Kew as *Pycnanthus Kombo*, Warb., were reported to be of commercial value. Adequate quantities, however, of the latter are not obtainable.

Five samples of soya beans from the Ronietta District were found to yield from 22·9 to 25·9 per cent. of oil on the dry bean, this being above the average of the corresponding yield from the Manchurian soya beans. If properly prepared, those from Sierra Leone would be readily saleable at the current market price.

The Sierra Leone Court at the Imperial Institute has recently received some additions, including specimens of native basket work, some pottery exhibits prepared at Bo School, and a fine pair of tusks of Sierra Leone ivory.

During the present year further exhibits for the Court are being collected.

Veterinary Branch.

The principal country for cattle is in the Koinadugu District, where large herds of a hundred or more are frequently to be seen. The majority of the cattle are of a reddish brown colour, small in size with long horns. The quality of milk produced from them is good, but the quantity of yield at present is very low.

The method now prevailing of promiscuous breeding, with no selection of sire or dam, is very detrimental to the class of stock, as it leads to excessive in-breeding, owing to the cattle being herded together in one place and never having an opportunity of meeting cattle from other places.

It is possible that in favourable circumstances the bullocks might in time become available as draught animals, and the trade in cattle in this district will, it is hoped, become important, as the cattle do well on the high grass lands and there is an increasing demand for beasts for slaughter along the railway line.

Forestry.

A full account of the forestry conditions prevailing in Sierra Leone is given on pages 20 to 24 of the Report for 1910.

In 1911 the European staff was strengthened by the appointment of an Assistant Conservator of Forests, and the work of this department was carried on satisfactorily during that year.

The first step towards the reservation of Colonial forests was made in December, when an area of 75½ square miles lying between the Babadori valley on the north and Kent on the south was carefully surveyed by the method of minor triangulation, based on the points already fixed by Major Pearson in his survey of 1904.

Forest nurseries and plantations already existed at St. George's Valley in Freetown and at Kennema. New ones have now been established at Mano, Bo, and Yamadu.

The experiments made with Para rubber seeds met with varying success, while those made with gum copal at Kennema proved most successful.

Dried specimens of parts of 58 trees were sent to Kew for identification, and two of them proved to be new species, namely, *Stercospermum leonense*, Sprague, and *Corynanthe Lane Poolei*, Hutchinson.

A Forestry Ordinance, drafted on the lines of that in force in Southern Nigeria, is now under consideration, which, it is hoped, will have the effect of preventing the needless destruction of forests to which allusion is made on page 22 of the Report for 1910, and which, unfortunately, still continues to a considerable degree.

At present the people do not seem disposed to give much effect to the advice offered by the Forestry staff, and it remains to be seen whether the enactment of the Ordinance referred to will be followed by a more cordial co-operation on their part.

During the year 1911 the forest areas of the Protectorate underwent an appreciable diminution, owing to the cession to Liberia of a considerable portion of the Gola forest in virtue of the treaty adverted to elsewhere in this Report. With the exception of a few strip surveys conducted in 1909 by Mr. A. H. Unwin, of the Southern Nigerian Forest Service, the recesses of this important forest have never been seriously explored.

Those brief incursions, however, revealed the presence of several valuable specimens of mahogany, rosewood, and satinwood trees; and the loss, from the forestry standpoint, which Sierra Leone has sustained by being deprived of this forest district must therefore be accounted a serious one, though its precise degree is not now ascertainable.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed in 1911; but it is only necessary to make reference to five of these:—

(1.) The Vicar Apostolic of Sierra Leone Incorporation Ordinance, which incorporates the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sierra Leone.

(2.) The Unoccupied Lands (Ascertainment of Title) Ordinance, which provides a summary method of ascertaining the ownership of many lands apparently vacant or without owners.

(3.) The Education Ordinance, which provides for a more effective system of education.

(4) Buchanan and Tyrell's Patent Ordinance, which grants patent rights in the Colony and Protectorate for the protection of a nut-cracking machine.

(5) The Public Health Amendment Ordinance, which directs that all wells situate within 130 yards of any public pump or standpipe shall be closed, and that the remaining wells shall be efficiently protected against the ingress of mosquitoes. This Ordinance also enacts that every barrel or other vessel containing water shall be provided with a mosquito-proof barrel.

IV.—EDUCATION.

COLONY.

The mode in which education is carried on in the Colony is concisely stated on page 27 of the report for 1910; and figures relating to the Primary Mission Schools later than those there cited are not available at the time of writing.

During the year under survey, a new Education Ordinance, No. 13 of 1911, was passed, by which the Director of Education and the Education Committee replace the old Board of Education, subject to the authority of the Governor-in-Council; and it is noticeable that the newly created Education Committee possesses an unofficial majority.

In addition to reading, writing, and arithmetic, assisted schools are required to teach the practice of some industrial or agricultural subject. Other subjects taught are history, geography, grammar, elementary hygiene, and nature study. Observation lessons, formerly sporadic and infrequent, now form part of the regular routine in most schools. The abolition of the system of payment by results has led to the foundation of a system of education better suited to the local environment. Schools run more smoothly and their work is productive.

Infant education, the methods of which were formerly with rare exceptions pernicious, now has regard both to mental and to physical activities. The hand is now employed as constantly as the head, and over-stimulation of the mind is avoided by arrangements for short intervals for recreation.

A gratifying feature is the higher level of efficiency now attained by many teachers; and by giving money grants to those of them who show merit, as well as by providing them with the opportunity of acquiring new and better methods of work, the Government is gradually solving a problem which was once the despair of the Colony.

It is, however, disappointing to have to record that educational energy still continues to be dissipated on two or more schools in sparsely populated areas—a feature apparently due to denominational *esprit de corps*.

Increased European inspection of the primary schools has fortunately been rendered possible during the past year by the presence in the Colony of the Principal and Instructress of the Government Model School, which is still under construction, and the effect of their work is already appreciable.

There are 14 Secondary Schools in the Colony, eight of which are Missionary Institutions, while the remainder are owned privately. The total number of pupils educated in these institutions amounts to over a thousand, 820 of whom attend the Missionary Schools; and from them come the professional classes, the teachers and the clerks employed by the Government and by business firms. A scheme has been sanctioned under which these schools will come into the grant-aided area, with the object of aiding in the establishment of systematic hand and eye work, and in securing a supply of trained youths for service as teachers.

There are five Mohammedan Schools or "Madrasas" in the Colony for the education of Mohammedan children; and, with the exception of a small sum contributed for the maintenance and equipment of these schools, their revenue is derived entirely from public funds.

The number of pupils on the roll in 1911 was 778 and the average attendance 456, as compared with 754 and 510 respectively in 1910. Of this number 250 are drawn from the various tribes of the Protectorate, and the Mandingos and Timinis continue to lead in numerical superiority.

The curriculum is the same as in Christian schools, with the addition of Arabic, which is taught daily between 7 and 9 a.m.

The majority of teachers in these schools are Christians; but out of the 12 Mohammedan boys who were originally selected for training as teachers under the supervision of the Education Department, 10 still remain. Their progress and work have been watched carefully, and it is intended that some of them shall be attached to the teaching staff of the "Madrasas" next year.

It is an interesting fact that the Mohammedans in this Colony are desirous that their women should be educated, and it is hoped that some of them will eventually become teachers.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School has continued to give instruction in the sciences relating to the building trade, architecture, and surveying.

The number of students is 31, several having left the school to take up various appointments during the year.

The expenses of the school have been met mainly by the Bishop of Sierra Leone's Diocesan Fund and by work done in the course of the school's curriculum. Approximately, the revenue is proportioned as follows:—

Sierra Leone Diocesan Fund...	33 per cent.
Receipts for work done	30 ,,
Government Grant	25 ,,
School Fees	12 ,,

There is increasing evidence that a scientific bias is needed in the educational programme of the Colony, as the larger proportion of youths enter life with only literary or theoretical knowledge, without having had sufficient training in the application of scientific principles.

The Technical School is doing useful work in supplying this need.

University Education.

The number of students at Fourah Bay College at the end of the year 1911 was 25, as compared with 17 in the preceding year. The income derived from students' fees was £436, while the expenditure amounted to £770.

The nature of the work done in connection with this estimable institution is indicated on page 30 of the Report for 1910.

The increase in the number of paying students, who now form as much as four-fifths of the entire number, is highly satisfactory; but the year 1911 marked the termination of the three years' grace granted by the Church Missionary Society in 1908 for the purpose of allowing local arrangements to be made for partially or wholly relieving that Society of their heavy financial responsibility in connection with the upkeep of the College. Up to the present, however, no local efforts have been made to ensure its continued existence; and the problem of its future career is a difficult one which still awaits solution.

On the last Degree Day, two candidates graduated as M.A. and two as B.A. (Dunelm).

EDUCATION IN THE PROTECTORATE.

The outstanding feature of education in the Protectorate during the year under review was the inauguration of the new system of grants to Protectorate schools, to which allusion is made on page 31 of the Report for 1910.

The sum of £313 12*s.* 8*d.* was distributed between 28 schools as a result of the inspection conducted by the staff of Bo School.

The aim kept in view is twofold—partly to encourage such practical teaching as will benefit the pupil materially, and partly to retain in the minds of the pupils respect for their own people, country, and institutions.

The ordinary Missionary school in the Protectorate rarely has a trained teacher in charge, and frequently he is out of touch with both Chief and pupils owing to his ignorance of their language.

The lack of trained teachers is perhaps the most serious obstacle to educational advancement; but a syllabus has been prepared which it is hoped will be of great assistance in these schools.

Although in some schools the inspection revealed great ignorance on many subjects of ordinary interest, as for instance the destination and use of country produce, such as oil, kernels, kola nuts, and so on, still on the whole the impression made was favourable; and it is fully anticipated that this year still better results will be obtained.

In particular, an effort will be made to introduce the accurate pronunciation of English, as distinguished from the coast patois now unfortunately so prevalent.

In 1911 there were, according to the returns, 70 schools, with 2,198 pupils on the roll, as compared with 71 schools, with 2,229 on the roll in 1910.

Full particulars of the school at Bo for the sons and nominees of Chiefs are given on page 32 of the Report for 1909.

At the end of 1911 there were 110 pupils, as compared with the 118 at the end of 1910, this slight decrease being due to the withdrawal of several pupils who had grown up to manhood.

When this school was started in March, 1906, it was found necessary to admit several boys of over 13 years of age, whereas now no boys are admitted if more than 10 years old.

The European staff has been strengthened by the appointment of a Vice-Principal, and the prefect system, which was introduced in May, 1910, is working well; so that the outlook is very promising. In this school also strong efforts are being made to teach the pupils pure English, but in spite of every care the coast idioms still creep in.

The pottery department has proved successful, while the manual training and drawing have wonderfully developed the sense of beauty and form in the minds of the pupils, and have led to greater neatness of work both in school and also in the surroundings of their homes.

It is confidently hoped that the pupils who have been withdrawn in 1911 will prove of great use and influence in their native towns.

The amount paid in school fees was £1,289, while the expense of maintaining the school in 1911 amounted to £3,172. The balance of £1,884 was paid out of the public revenue of the Colony.

Several Mohammedan schools are also to be found throughout the Protectorate, but the education given is chiefly of a religious nature. There are signs, however, that some of these schools are being influenced by the development of Mohammedan education in the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

In 1911 the total number of patients treated at the various Government hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 2,570 in-patients and 83,103 out-patients—85,673 altogether; returns which indicate a decrease of 1,421 as compared with those of 1910, there being a slight falling off both at the out-stations and in Freetown.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,535 in-patients and 30,228 out-patients were treated. 334 operations were performed, 304 of which proved successful.

148 patients were under treatment in the lunatic asylum at Kissy; while 162, including 11 in the leper ward, were treated in the Male Incurable Hospital and 83 in the Female Incurable Hospital.

European Nursing Home.

There were 54 admissions as compared with 60 in 1910. The classification of the patients is as follows:—

Officials	21
Mercantile	29
Shipping	4
Total ...	54

These included 22 cases of malaria and one of blackwater fever.

Savings Bank.

A steady increase in transactions was maintained in 1911. The total number of deposits was 9,158, amounting to £63,141, which represents an increase of 665 and £5,571 as compared with the corresponding figures for the preceding year.

The withdrawals numbered 7,291, amounting to £58,521, an increase of 276 and £6,510 in comparison with the figures for 1910.

The average value of each deposit was £6 17*s.* 10*d.*, and of each withdrawal £8 0*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £6 15*s.* 6*d.* and £7 8*s.* 1*d.* in the year previous.

On the 31st of December, 1911, there were 6,002 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit was £99,812, inclusive of interest for the year.

The average value of each account was £16 12*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £16 3*s.* 4*d.* at the end of 1910.

The revenue derived from the transfer of accounts to the United Kingdom and to Jamaica amounted to £17, as compared with £13 in 1910.

An investment of £10,000 in Straits Settlements 3½ per cent. stock was made during the year, bringing the total funds now invested up to £100,162.

The interest derived from investments was £3,462, thus showing an increase of £557 over the returns of the preceding year.

The profit and loss account shows a profit of £750 on the year's working, this being the largest realised since the opening of the Savings Bank.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of the judicial system obtaining in Sierra Leone are given on pages 39 and 40 of the Report for 1909.

The institution of an intermediate Court of Appeal standing between the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has been approved. It will be composed of the Chief Justice and Circuit Judge of Sierra Leone and one of the Judges of the Gold Coast Colony, and will have jurisdiction both in civil and criminal matters.

Police.

Some details of the Police Force will be found on page 40 of the Report for 1909.

In 1911 the strength of the force was 253 including all ranks; but an augmentation to the force of two sergeants and nine men has since been approved.

The Detective Branch has done useful work, not only in the prevention and detection of crime, but also in the enforcement of the provisions of various Ordinances relating to spirits and public morality. This branch is also engaged in the finger-print classification of criminals, in connection with which 290 fresh prints were taken during the year, bringing the total of registered prints up to 1,796.

The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1900, has been strictly enforced, and 108 certificates of justness were issued, as compared with 318 in 1910.

514 weights, 173 weighing machines, and 136 measures were examined, and 292 surprise visits were made during the year to the various business houses.

There were 10 outbreaks of fire, as compared with 9 in 1910; with one exception all these took place at night time, and in no case was there any suspicion of incendiarism.

There is a volunteer fire brigade, consisting of 36 men and a native acting superintendent, which is under the control of the Municipality. The men receive 6*d*. per drill, and these take place about twice a week; they also receive a small sum for each fire they attend. There are no steam or manual engines, and the firemen depend entirely on the water-main hydrants, of which there are nearly 300 in various parts of the town. In serious fires, assistance is always rendered by the military, who bring a manual engine and other necessary appliances.

The number of cases reported to the police in 1911 was 1,954; 1,667 arrests were made, 1,248 persons were convicted and 419 were discharged.

As compared with 1910, the returns show an increase in assaults, drunkenness, and larceny from ships; while a decrease is shown in simple larceny and larceny from the person. Despite this increase in the cases of drunkenness, the total number only amounted to 102 during the year, which must be regarded as very moderate.

The cost of maintaining the force was £8,872, as compared with £8,894 in 1910.

There were only 36 young persons brought before the Freetown Police Court, as compared with 71 in the preceding year; 29 of these were convicted of larceny, as compared with 60 in 1910.

Prisons Department.—Freetown Gaol.

The total number of prisoners received into the Freetown gaol in 1911 was 947 as compared with 874 in 1910. Of the former number 94 were committed from districts other than Freetown, as compared with 71 in the year previous. The highest number of prisoners in custody at one time was 263, and the lowest 191. The highest monthly average was 247 in February, and the lowest 199 in November. The daily average for the whole year was 225, being one less than in 1910.

On the occasion of the King's Coronation 30 prisoners were released as an act of grace. In the course of the year seven died in hospital, seven were executed, and two were removed to the lunatic asylum as insane.

Breaches of the Prisons Regulations were rather numerous, and four prisoners were sentenced to corporal punishment by the Visiting Justices. It is anticipated, however, that when the new prison is completed, in which each prisoner will be confined in a separate cell, the number of these breaches will sensibly diminish.

During the year under review, there was a considerable increase in the number of habitual prisoners convicted in the Freetown Police District, an increase which is largely due to the operation of the Summary Conviction Offences Amendment Ordinance, 1910, which enables the police magistrate to give sentences up to nine months' duration to those offenders having five or more previous convictions for felony.

This class of criminal seems to present much the same problem as the corresponding class in England, and it is apparently in the interest both of themselves and of society that these offenders should be incarcerated rather than be at large, since the regular work and salutary prison discipline probably render their lives as harmless and useful as it is in their nature to be.

Two such cases may be cited, in one of which a prisoner has had 40 convictions dating from 1884, while another, since 1875, has spent no less than 25 years in the Freetown gaol.

The work of the Prison Manufacturing Branch continued to be satisfactory, consisting of tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, and bed-making, the sales from which produced £1,202.

At the new prison, which is now partly in use, the daily average was 109 male prisoners. These men were employed in the heavier kinds of labour.

The health of the prisoners and the sanitary conditions of the gaol were maintained at a satisfactory standard.

District Prisons.

With two exceptions these all show an increase in prison population during 1911 over that of the previous year. The prisoners were generally employed in performing the sanitary work of the various stations and in road making.

Four executions took place, two for Human Leopard murder in the Ronietta District, and two for Human Alligator murder in the Karene District.

The increase in the number admitted to the district gaols does not necessarily imply any increase of crime in the Protectorate, but is no doubt to be attributed to the more efficient administration and supervision exercised by the District Commissioners.

The cost of maintaining the Prisons Department was £6,581, as compared with £6,402 in 1910.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 86 convictions in that Court during the year, including one for murder and 57 for larceny. In the preceding year 105 convictions were recorded, 11 of which were for homicide and 68 for offences against property.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown, 2,108 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 1,095 in 1910. This apparently large increase is mainly due to the vigorous prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinances, especially that relating to larvæ.

In the District Police Courts of the Colony, at Waterloo and Bonthe, there were 526 persons convicted summarily, as against 539 in 1910.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 70 convictions, as compared with 51 in 1910, and of these 17 were for homicide, as against eight in the preceding year. These convictions include those of members of the cannibal societies.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 705 convictions, as compared with 639 in 1910, this advance indicating greater administrative activity rather than an increase of crime.

The criminal statistics of the year under review do not call for special comment, save to observe that there seems to be no decline of cannibalism in the Protectorate.

In addition to the convictions recorded for cannibal murder, there have also been convictions on the charge of being in possession of the insignia and implements of cannibal societies.

The most active of these organisations are presumably the Human Leopard and Human Alligator Societies; for, although once—in 1910—a case purporting to relate to the Human Baboon Society was judicially investigated, there appears to be hitherto no conviction for murder on record of professed members of that body.

The operations of the Human Alligator Society are traceable mainly on the Rokelle River and in the vicinity of other rivers in the north of the Protectorate, while the influence of the Human Leopard Society is felt most in the Ronietta and Northern Sherbro Districts.

Apart from the murders which take place from time to time to gratify a lust for human flesh, there are indications that in the Imperri and Timdale Chiefdoms, which are situate within the latter district, events such as the coronation of a chief or the death of a prominent personage are frequently made an occasion for a human sacrifice by either the "Borni" or the "Tomah" society.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A statement of the returns of the census taken in 1911, as far as they relate to the Colony, is given later under the heading of "Census"; while an estimate of the population of the Protectorate appears at the beginning of this Report.

Two hundred and thirty-one marriages were solemnised and one civil marriage ceremony performed in 1911. The latter is hitherto the only marriage which has taken place under the Civil Marriage Ordinance, 1910, and both the parties concerned were Europeans.

Registration of births and deaths is not compulsory in the Protectorate, nor is it enforced in all parts of the Colony. In Freetown, however, it is obligatory.

During the year 1,116 births and 1,314 deaths were registered, of which 501 and 740, respectively, took place in Freetown.

These returns show a death-rate of 17 and a birth-rate of 14 per 1,000 respectively.

The population of Freetown according to the 1911 census was 34,090; the births registered numbered 501, and the deaths numbered 747. These figures show a birth-rate of 14 and a death-rate of 21 per 1,000 respectively. The ten chief causes of death were in the order given as follows:—

1. Diseases of the digestive system.
2. Diseases of the nervous system.
3. Diseases of the respiratory system.
4. Debility.
5. Fever (malarial).
6. Diseases of the circulatory system.
7. Rheumatism.
8. Premature birth.
9. Diseases of the urinary system.
10. Tubercle.

It must, however, be stated that only about 25 per cent. of the deaths registered are certified to by medical practitioners.

European Population.

There was an improvement in the health of the European population during 1911. The total number of Europeans resident in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was approximately 909, made up as follows:—

Officials	192
Military	374
Non-Officials	343
Total	909

There were three deaths, two of which were due, respectively, to blackwater fever and heart disease, while the other was accidental. Thirty-six Europeans were invalided, of whom 17 were suffering from malaria and one from blackwater fever.

Ninety European officials were placed on the sick list for a total number of 532 days, while five were sent to England invalided.

General.

There were no cases of yellow fever or trypanosomiasis during the year, nor any epidemic outbreak of small-pox.

Vaccination was carried on as regularly as possible both in the Colony and Protectorate.

8,432 persons were vaccinated, 5,199 (61 per cent.) with known success.

The returns of malaria show that 2,208 cases were treated, as compared with 2,472 in 1910. In Freetown 151 fewer cases were recorded than in the year previous, a decrease which affords some testimony as to the success of the anti-mosquito measures adopted during the year, which is further confirmed by a decrease in the deaths from that disease of 54.

The infantile death-rate in Freetown was 310 per 1,000, a decrease of 58 on the rate for 1910.

Sanitation.

An Ordinance further amending the "Public Health Ordinance, 1905," was passed in 1911, the purport of which has been stated earlier in this report under the heading of "Legislation."

The regular work of the Sanitary Department was diligently carried on during the year, special attention being devoted to the extermination of mosquitoes. Consequent on the routine inspections of collections of water with a view to the discovery of larvæ, 1,350 prosecutions were instituted under the Public Health Amendment Ordinance, 1910, and in 1,084 cases convictions were secured.

In Freetown the free distribution of quinine was extended by an arrangement under which the Princess Christian Mission Hospital Dispensary is supplied with large quantities, free of charge, for issue particularly in the eastern part of Freetown, where that institution is situated.

The inhabitants of Freetown show marked appreciation of the free supplies of broken stone provided, at Professor Simpson's suggestion, for use in filling up pools and other hollows.

Experiments are in hand to make trial of the usefulness of "Millions" fish as larvæ eaters. They may prove useful in pools, but larvæ-eating fish appear to avoid places where laundry work is habitually carried on, owing to the soapy condition of the water ensuing therefrom.

It is believed that, as a result of the comprehensive and sustained campaign against mosquitoes, their number in Freetown has been sensibly diminished.

1,918 rats and mice were brought to the Colonial Hospital by the public and paid for at the rate of one penny each.

A commencement has been made in the drainage of "Brookfields," a swampy area lying to the west of Freetown, in which direction the city may possibly be extended at some future time.

At Bonthe the water supply is still at an experimental stage, the pumps which had been installed having suffered from wilful damage and from thefts of the working parts. A new iron cylinder well, with a patent elevator attached, promises to be more satisfactory. The problem may perhaps be solved by sinking some concrete-lined wells outside the town with strong pumps operated by a windmill, or with an aero-motor pump attachment.

Owing to the partition of the Northern Sherbro and the Sherbro Districts, the District Commissioner of the latter is now more free to devote his care to the sanitation of Bonthe and York Island.

The usual sanitary inspections throughout the Colony were efficiently conducted during the year.

In the Protectorate, where the sanitation scheme is controlled by the District Commissioners with the assistance of the medical officers and is promoted by methods of suasion and encouragement, a gratifying advance is recorded.

One indication of this is discernible in the establishment, by a few of the native chiefs, of definite segregated cemeteries.

Some progress has also been made in the matter of expelling cattle from the towns and villages; while there are also cases of entirely new towns having been built by Chiefs on regular lines in the immediate vicinity of old ones, with a view to abandoning the latter eventually or at least to remodel them substantially.

It is further favourable augury that many Chiefs are now beginning to take a practical interest in the planning and making of roads and streets.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those Chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary condition of their Chiefdoms has appeared to merit recognition, and a general survey of the work done in 1911 justifies the claim that the interests of sanitation were appreciably advanced in that year both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

Climate.

A general description of the climatic conditions prevailing in Sierra Leone, comprising an account of the rainfall, temperature, and the direction and force of the wind, appears on pages 50-52 of the Report for 1909.

At Freetown, in 1911, the mean shade temperature was 80·4°; the highest point recorded being 92° in March, and the lowest, 70·8° in October.

The rainfall measured 146·59 inches, August being the wettest month with 36·08 inches, while the driest was January with 0·01 inches.

The maximum humidity was, in August, 90°, and the minimum was recorded in April, 75°.

The general direction of the wind was westerly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal Department.

A satisfactory expansion of postal business is recorded throughout the Colony and Protectorate.

The number of Post Offices open at the close of the year was 48. Savings Bank business was transacted at nine of these; money order business at 29; and postal order business at 33.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,490,618, as compared with 1,415,493 in 1910. This total was made up as follows:

—	Letters, Post Cards, Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom...	434,892	7,311	18,700	1,540
Despatched to United Kingdom ...	236,797	24,569	1,845	211
Received from West African Colonies.	159,087	17,534	6,167	24
Despatched to West African Colonies.	139,234	10,719	2,241	—
Internal	384,078	36,226	9,443	—

The money order transactions numbered 12,732, and amounted to £133,637. A comparison with the figures of the previous year shows a decrease in number of 52, but an increase in value of £11,305:—

—	1910.		1911.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom...	485	3,658	380	1,913
Despatched to United Kingdom ...	3,985	35,952	4,001	34,628
Received from West African Colonies.	417	2,975	278	2,998
Despatched to West African Colonies.	469	3,992	481	4,309
Internal	7,428	75,775	7,592	89,789
Total	12,784	122,332	12,732	133,637

The postal order business continued to show an appreciable increase. 37,613 orders, amounting to £22,197, were issued, and 27,070 orders, amounting to £18,593, were paid during the year. Compared with 1910, 5,279 more, of the value of £4,054, were issued, and 2,362, of the value of £1,726, were paid.

The postal revenue totalled £8,807, an increase of 24 per cent. when compared with 1910. The Customs Duty collected in respect of parcels amounted to £2,449, and £3,462 was received as interest on the Saving Bank investments. £2,352 was collected by the Post Office in respect of Inland Revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £11,301, an increase of 7½ per cent. over 1910. A sum of £1,962 was paid as interest to Savings Bank depositors.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

The only land line telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the railway department. The head office is at Water Street, Freetown, and the line of operation extends to Baiima (220½ miles from Freetown): a branch runs from Mano on the railway main line to Bendu (Sherbro), a distance of about 72 miles, from which latter place telegrams are carried to and from Bonthe and York Island by boat services. There are two important transmitting centres, (1) at Boia, 64¼ miles, and (2) at Bo, 136 miles up the line, also two sub-transmitting stations, viz., (*a*) at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to and from Port Lokko and Mabanta (Imperial Government military lines); this line serves the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; and (*b*) at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch to Serabu and Bendu, whence telegrams are conveyed by boat to Bonthe, as stated above.

A telephone service was constructed during 1910 between Baiima and Pendembu terminus, a distance of 7¾ miles, also between Boia Junction and Roruks, a distance of about 21 miles, on the Yonni branch line. A telegraph station was also opened at Serabu, on the Mano-Bendu line, to serve the districts round Sumbuya and Mafwe.

Telegrams from any part of the Protectorate can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the West African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

Telephones.

Webb and Thompson's staff and telephone instruments combined are in use by the railway for departmental working from Hill Station to Pendembu. There is also a private telephone service connecting the railway head office at Water Street, Freetown, with the various heads of the railway sub-departments.

An exchange switchboard for the railway's own departmental use is installed in the telegraph head office at Water Street, connecting the General Manager's office with all the sub-offices of the railway. The Customs Department and the Central Police Station are also in direct telephonic communication with the railway exchange.

There is a telephone line between the West African Direct Telegraph Company and their bungalow at Hill Station, and some short lines connecting about four commercial stores with their head offices in Freetown, and another small exchange is installed in the Colonial Secretary's Office, placing it in telephonic connection with various other Government departments and with Hill Station.

The installation of a single central exchange serving the whole country would be a natural and advantageous development of the telephonic services of Sierra Leone.

The revenue derived from the railway telegraph department in 1911 was £2,060, as compared with £1,628 in 1910.

IX.—PROTECTORATE.

A comprehensive account of the "House Tax," the "Court Messengers," "Land Tenure," the "Spread of Mohammedanism," and "Game" is given in the Report for 1909, pages 55 to 57.

The returns from the House Tax in 1911 amounted to £52,771, as compared with £49,703 in 1910, an advance which must be regarded as gratifying, and attributable largely to the more efficient assessing of the various Chiefdoms.

The strength of the Court Messenger Staff was 223, and the cost of maintaining the force was £4,170, as compared with £4,353 in 1910.

The Political Staff was strengthened in 1911 by the appointment of three additional District Commissioners (second class); and the importance and wisdom of maintaining an adequate administrative establishment sufficient to ensure the efficient performance of the assessing and police duties of each district and subdistrict are becoming increasingly manifest.

From the 1st of May, 1911, the Northern Sherbro and Sherbro Districts, which had been administered jointly, were divided, and the Northern Sherbro District was placed under a separate administration, with the old disused station of Bandajuma as its headquarters. A new site, however, has since been selected at Pujehun, which it is hoped to develop into a model station.

Two new sub-districts were opened during the year, one at Port Lokko in the Karene District and the other at Kanre Lahun in the Railway District. Each was placed under one of the newly appointed second class District Commissioners.

The institution of the former has already produced good results, while the latter was rendered necessary by the accession of territory in that locality consequent on the Anglo-Liberian treaty of the 21st of January, 1911.

The advance and spreading influence of Islam still remains a salient feature of many of the Protectorate tribes; and in districts where that influence is strong a high degree of sobriety and of amenability to good order prevails.

Game.

The following were reported as shot by holders of licences during 1911:—

Elephants	5
Buffalo	2
Waterbuck	3
Duiker	3
Cobus-kob	6
Bush buck	1
Bush cow	1
Hippopotamus	1

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the 29th of April, 1911, Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., formerly Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to the Government of Malta, landed at Freetown and assumed the administration of the Colony in succession to Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., who had been appointed to the Governorship of Barbados.

On the 21st of January, 1911, a treaty was signed, and subsequently ratified on the 13th of May following, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Republic of Liberia, by which certain territories in the east of the Sierra Leone Protectorate, comprising part of the Gola Forest, were ceded to Liberia in exchange for an area of territory which is now administered as a sub-district of the Railway District, with Kanre Lahun as its headquarters.

In pursuance of the exchange of notes between the British and French Governments on the 6th of July, 1911, the Anglo-French boundary underwent a modification, resulting in the accession to Sierra Leone of a narrow strip of territory of an area of about 125 square miles, which is now also included in the Railway District.

On his return journey from Cape Town, General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., D.S.O., Inspector-General of the Oversea Forces, paid a visit of inspection to Freetown, which lasted from the 29th of October to the 1st of November.

During his stay he inspected the several contingents and corps composing the Imperial Military Garrison stationed in Sierra Leone, which is under the command of Major-General J. A. Ferrier, C.B., D.S.O., R.E., General Officer Commanding the Troops, West Africa.

The Census.

During the year under review the decennial census was taken under the provisions of the Census Ordinance, 1911, the 2nd of April being the "census day."

The skeleton results of this census are stated at the opening of this Report, and, in comparing them with those of the census taken in 1901, it has to be observed that in the interval the Isles de Los were ceded to France, while Kikonkeh is now comprised in the Protectorate.

The total population of the Colony shows an increase of 1,221 persons over that of 1901; the resident European community has advanced in numbers during the last decade by 341, thus more than doubling its number of 309 in 1901; while the Syrian population has increased from 47 in 1901 to 175 in 1911.

The Sierra Leoneans proper, or Creoles, on the other hand, have decreased during the same period by 2,120, or 6·3 per cent., a decrease which must be partly attributed to the depopulation of several of the villages of the Colony. It should, however, also be remarked that in recent years a considerable number of Sierra Leoneans have migrated into the Protectorate, or have sought employment down the coast.

State of Railways and Roads.

Railways.—The main line of the Sierra Leone Government railway extends from Freetown (Water Street terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles.

There is a branch line from Boia junction to Roruks, a distance of 20½ miles. An extension of this line northward to Rowalla was commenced in 1910, and it has now been decided to continue it across the Rokelle river in the direction of Makene, a town in the Karene District, 18 miles beyond that river. When completed, the total length of the branch line from Boia will be about 89 miles, and it will reach the heart of one of the richest palm-belts of the Protectorate.

A mountain line, 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. Hill Station stands 900 feet above sea level.

There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus with the Government wharf, Government quarry, Public Works Department, and recreation ground.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations and flag stations is 51.

In 1911 the accounts for the mountain section were merged into those of the main line. The working expenses amounted to £69,818 and the earnings to £107,621, showing a net revenue of £37,803.

This result must be regarded as highly satisfactory, as it indicates a yield of about 3¾ per cent. on the capital expenditure. From a commercial point of view, however, it must be observed that the Railway Department does not bear the expenses connected with the residences at Hill Station occupied by members of its staff, nor of the pensions paid to retired railway officials.

In 1910 the earnings amounted to £101,610, and the net revenue to £36,576, so that the results of the year under review were still more satisfactory than in the preceding year.

A sum of £9,922 was spent on "Capital Works," and the allocation of working expenditure was as follows:—

	£
Way and Works	21,406
Locomotive, Carriage, and Wagon ...	25,721
Traffic	13,887
General	8,804
	£69,818

	1910	1911
Total number of passengers ...	345,768	339,332
Goods tonnage	53,425	55,540
Train miles	249,493	261,056

The earnings and expenditure of the mountain railway are now merged in those of the main line, separate figures no longer being kept.

	1910	1911
Receipts per train mile ...	8*s*. 1·74*d*.	8*s*. 2·94*d*.

Working expenses per open and train mile:—

	1910			1911		
	£	*s*.	*d*.	£	*s*.	*d*.
Per open mile ...	261	16	7·94	273	5	2·01
Per train mile ...	0	5	4·23	0	5	4·19

The revenue and expenditure of the Boia and Baiima tram lines are now merged in that of main line.

Rolling Stock:—

Locomotive engines	35
Coaching vehicles	59
Goods vehicles	203
	262

Roads.

An account of the Protectorate roads system is given on pages 47 and 48 of the Report for 1910.

During the year under review the ordinary work of maintenance was carried on. The surfaces of the first and second class roads were re-coated with laterite, and the embankments repaired.

The third class roads continued to be maintained by the Paramount Chiefs, acting under the instructions of the District Commissioners; and in connection with this work the sum of £513 was paid in subsidies to the Chiefs.

Several new bridges were built and other improvements effected in some of the more important roads in the Colony.

Public Works.

The work of the Public Works Department is increasing rapidly, and the European staff has consequently been considerably augmented.

Progress was made with the buildings of the new Supreme Court and legal offices, which were commenced at the end of the year 1910. This work, however, was somewhat retarded by the non-receipt of the steelwork and the delay in delivering the doors and window-frames.

Good progress was also made with the new Prison buildings situate at the Botanic Station.

The Prison hospital, which was commenced in 1910, is completed, and is considered by the Medical Staff to be thoroughly satisfactory in every way.

During the year the cell system of the prison was changed, and two blocks of solitary cells to accommodate 72 prisoners each are now under construction.

The new Post Office of Freetown was also completed in 1911, providing accommodation for the parcel post and accounts branches of the General Post Office.

A commencement was made in the building of the new Government Model School, the accommodation of which consists of a central hall, three class-rooms for standard pupils, and two classrooms for infants, together with rooms for the Principal and the teaching staff. A workshop for manual training is also to be built in 1912.

Owing to the increase in the number of the European colonial officials, several new residences have been built both in the Colony and Protectorate, while others are still under construction.

A cast-iron screw-pile jetty was built at Port Lokko, the chief port of the Karene District, to facilitate the landing of passengers and cargo. The new pier is 65 feet long and reaches to the deepest part of the channel, so that launches can now be made fast and passengers and cargo discharged direct on to it.

A bridge has also been constructed over the Bankasoko river, connecting the old and new towns of Port Lokko. It has a total span of 160 feet, and has proved of great convenience to the natives, who previously had to rely on a ferry service.

A hospital was built at the Moa Barracks, Daru, for the West African Frontier Force. The walls of this building are of sun-dried mud bricks, while the floors are of concrete and the roof is of corrugated iron.

It remains to observe that it has been decided to build a new Government House at Hill Station, but the construction of it has not yet been begun.

Commercial and General Outlook.

An indication of the opportunities and qualifications requisite for commercial enterprise and investment of capital in Sierra Leone is given on pages 61 to 64 of the Report for 1909.

The prospects of Sierra Leone trade at the present time continue to be favourable.

The prices of the principal exports still rule high in the European markets, and, with the further opening up of the rich but more remote palm-belts in the north of the Protectorate by the extended Yonni branch line with its accompanying "feeder" roads, it may be freely anticipated that the quantity of palm products brought down to the coast for export will be sensibly augmented.

The prosperity of this export trade produces as a natural corollary in natives and Sierra Leoneans alike a growing ability to command the various comforts and luxuries of food, apparel, and environment which characterise a people's progress in wealth and refinement of life.

Numerous signs occur in indicating that this Colony and its Protectorate are progressively attracting the attention of European business firms and financiers; the resident European community, official as well as unofficial, is steadily increasing in numbers; and a general survey of the year under review compels the conviction that Sierra Leone may justly look forward with confidence to a fair participation in the era now clearly dawning throughout West Africa, which augurs well to be one of commercial prosperity, of political development, and of an ever-advancing civilisation.

E. EVELYN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
12th July, 1912.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the importation of spirits into Sierra Leone during the five years ended 31st December, 1911.

Year.	* Quantity in gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanations.
		£	£		
1907	420,078	54,368	89,586	From 1st January, 1906, 4*s.* the Imperial gallon or part thereof, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of one penny for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5·50 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1908	305,233	43,244	70,553	As above, till 14th August, 1908. From that date, 5*s.* the Imperial gallon or part thereof, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of one penny for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5·31 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1909	303,537	46,054	83,416	As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 4·73 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1910	413,791	59,281	111,930	As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5·09 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1911	457,911	76,144	120,736	As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6·01 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.

* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

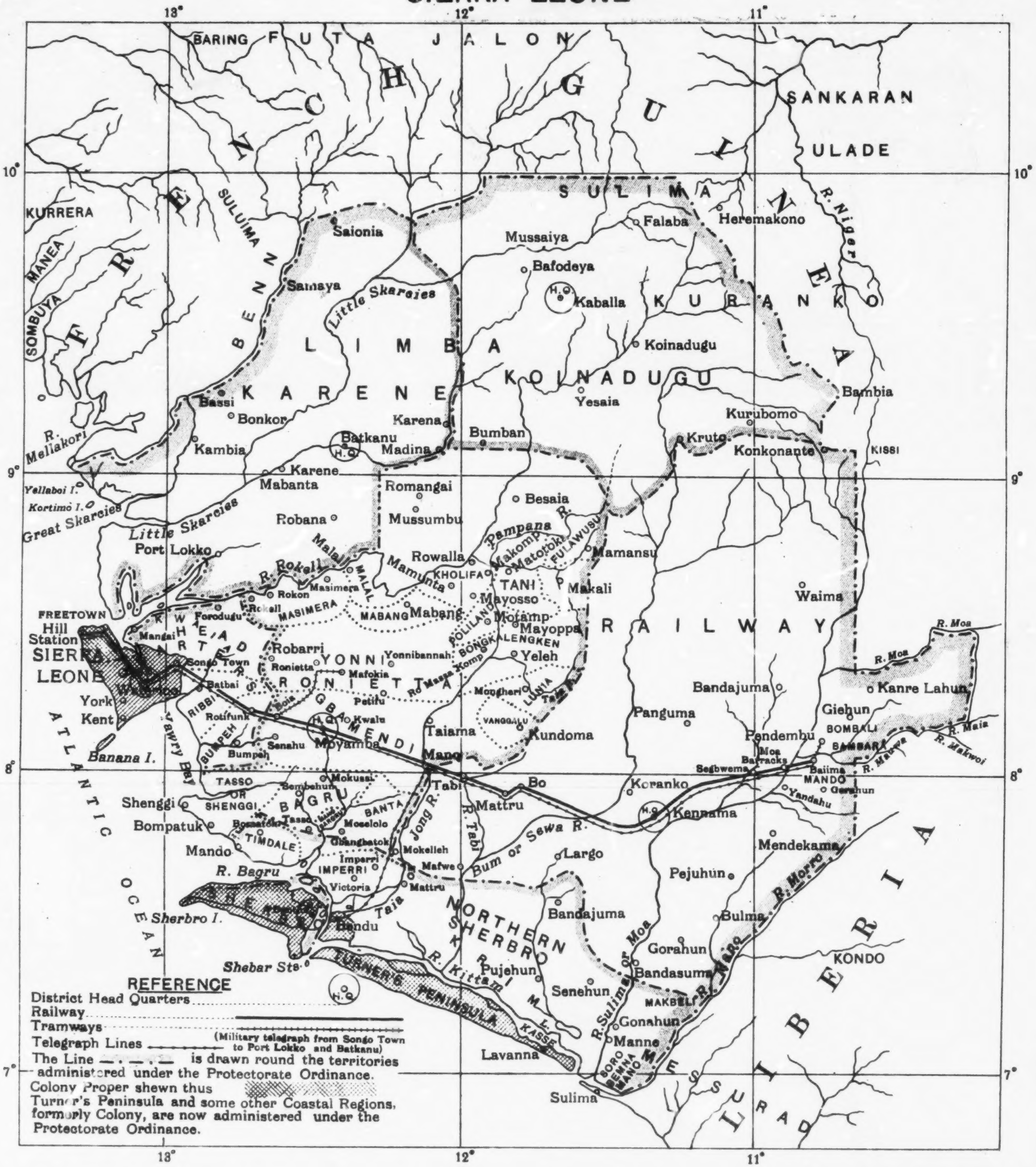
ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
723	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

SIERRA LEONE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BARING
FUTA JALON
FRENCH GUINEA
SANKARAN
ULADE
KURRERA
MANEA
SOMBUYA
SULUIMA
BENNA
SULIMA
R. Niger
Heremakono
Falaba
Mussaiya
Saionia
Samaya
Bafodeya
H.Q.
Kaballa
KURANKO
Little Skarcies
LIMBA
Koinadugu
KOINADUGU
KARENE
Bambia
Bassi
Bonkor
Yesaia
Karena
Kurubomo
Batkanu
Bumban
Kruto
R. Mellakori
Kambia
Madina
Konkonante
KISSI
Karene
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
Mabanta
Romangai
Besaia
Great Skarcies
Robana
Mussumbu
Pampana R.
Little Skarcies
Port Lokko
Malal
Rowalla
Makomp
Matotoka
FULAWUSU
Mamansu
R. Rokell
MALAL
Mamunta
KHOLIFA
TANE
Makali
Rokon
Masimera
Mayosso
Waima
FREETOWN
Forodugu
Rokell
MASIMERA
MABANG
Mabang
POLILANDE
Mofamp
Hill Station
KWAIA
Mangai
MARAMPA
Mayoppa
RAILWAY
SIERRA LEONE
Songo Town
Robarri
YONNI
Yonnibannah
BONGKALENGKEN
Yeleh
R. Moa
Ronietta
Mafokia
Massa Komp
Waterloo
Batbai
RONIETTA
Mongheri
LUNIA
Kanre Lahun
York
Kent
RIBBI
Rotifunk
Bendu
Petifu
Taia R.
Bandajuma
Kwalu
Panguma
Giehun
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Yawry Bay
BUMPEH
Mobai
Kwalu
GBO MENDI
Taiama
VANGGALU
Kundoma
Pendembu
BOMBALI
R. Maia
Banana I.
Bumpeh
Senahu
Moyamba
Mano
Moa Barracks
BAMBARA
R. Makwoi
R. Mahwa
Segbwema
Baiima
MANDO
Gorahun
TASSO OR SHENGGI
Sembehun
Mokussi
Tabi
Bo
Koranko
Yandahu
Shenggi
BAGRU
Mattru
Kennama
Bompatuk
Tasso
BANTA
R. Tabi
Bum or Sewa R.
Mendekama
Bonsatoke
Moselolo
TIMDALE
Jong R.
Mando
Gbangbatok
Mokelleh
Largo
Imperri
Pejuhun
R. Bagru
IMPERRI
Mafwe
Victoria
Mattru
SHERBRO
Sherbro I.
Bandu
Taia R.
NORTHERN SHERBRO
Bandajuma
Bulma
R. Morro
LIBERIA
KRIM
Gorahun
KONDO
Shebar Sts.
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
Pujehun
Senehun
Bandasuma
R. Sulima or Moa
R. Mano
MAKBELE
Gonahun
KASSE L.
Manne
MASSAQUOI
Lavanna
SORO
GALLINAS
PERRI
Sulima
SURADA
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
Railway
Tramways
Telegraph Lines
(Military telegraph from Songo Town to Port Lokko and Batkanu)
The Line — . — . — is drawn round the territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.
Colony Proper shewn thus ▨
Turner's Peninsula and some other Coastal Regions, formerly Colony, are now administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 759.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 724.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1913.

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1913.

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Sketch Map.

No. 759.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 724.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
8th July, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1912, which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. C. Hollis, C.M.G.

I have, &c.,
E. M. MEREWETHER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(31029—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 8/13. D & S.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1912 exceeded that for 1911 by £102,096, which must be regarded as a highly satisfactory indication of the Colony's present prosperity.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of revenue as compared with the preceding year:—

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1911.			Revenue for 1912.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	242,324	8	0	301,140	6	7	58,815	18	7	—		
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues.	5,502	19	9	6,508	10	3	1,005	10	6	—		
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	66,889	16	6	75,012	13	0	8,122	16	6	—		
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid.	14,059	3	10	15,082	7	5	1,023	3	7	—		
Post Office and Savings Bank.	8,807	2	9	9,546	17	5	739	14	8	—		
Rents on Government Property.	436	3	0	386	3	4	—			49	19	8
Interest	10,339	10	8	10,397	9	10	57	19	2	—		
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,448	8	3	858	2	6	—			590	5	9
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	107,925	6	1	140,873	6	2	32,948	0	1	—		
Land Sales	26	7	0	48	15	6	22	8	6	—		
Total	457,759	5	10	559,854	12	0	102,735	11	7	640	5	5

The total revenue for the five years, 1908-1912, was as follows:—

	£
1908	320,999
1909	361,326
1910	424,215
1911	457,759
1912	559,855

Expenditure.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure as compared with the preceding year:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1911.			Expenditure for 1912.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charge on account of Public Debt.	61,335	12	4	61,249	3	6	—			86	8	10
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities.	7,291	12	11	7,359	18	6	68	5	7	—		
The Governor and Legislature.	5,771	13	10	6,771	6	2	999	12	4	—		
Colonial Secretary's Department.	5,530	16	8	8,079	16	8	2,549	0	0	—		

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1911.			Expenditure for 1912.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	
Provincial Administration...	31,288	15	2	31,307	10	11	18	15	9	—		
Treasury	3,929	14	0	4,342	6	9	412	12	9	—		
Customs Department ...	13,636	12	1	14,243	4	8	606	12	7	—		
Audit Department	2,417	7	6	2,605	0	1	187	12	7	—		
Port and Marine Department.	1,391	1	0	1,332	1	8	—			58	19	4
Legal Departments	7,965	4	11	8,761	18	8	796	13	9	—		
Civil Police	8,871	18	3	9,183	5	8	311	7	5	—		
Prisons	7,491	13	7	8,166	9	6	674	15	11	—		
Medical Departments ...	22,682	14	9	25,863	0	7	3,180	5	10	—		
Sanitary Department ...	3,712	8	7	4,831	15	2	1,119	6	7	—		
Education	8,521	3	3	11,926	5	11	3,405	2	8	—		
Miscellaneous Services ...	19,127	0	8	17,952	4	11	—			1,174	15	9
Post Office	11,301	5	7	12,121	10	10	820	5	3	—		
Agricultural Department ...	1,917	18	4	3,123	17	8	1,205	19	4	—		
Forestry Department ...	2,191	0	1	3,289	16	5	1,098	16	4	—		
Public Works Department...	8,432	15	5	12,039	1	4	3,606	5	11	—		
" " Recurrent ...	17,015	2	9	21,330	11	11	4,315	9	2	—		
" " Extraordinary	33,119	16	3	48,771	15	7	15,651	19	4	—		
" " " (Special)	—			1,605	11	10	1,605	11	10	—		
West African Frontier Force	22,413	19	2	24,120	3	9	1,706	4	7	—		
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	79,784	14	5	101,891	12	2	22,106	17	9	—		
Central Railway Construction.	45,306	6	5	72,147	18	5	26,841	12	0	—		
Total	432,448	7	11	524,417	9	3	93,289	5	3	1,320	3	11

The total expenditure for the years 1908-1912 was as follows:—

	£
1908	341,871
1909	336,746
1910	361,222
1911	432,448
1912	524,417

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings chargeable to loan (1904) funds amounted to £998, the principal items contributing to this expenditure being for—

(1) Freetown Waterworks construction.
(2) Residences (including water supply).

The total expenditure on works and undertakings chargeable to loan funds amounted at the end of the year to £1,189,953; leaving a balance of £9,125, which it is proposed to allocate to the supplementing of the Freetown water supply, the estimated cost of which is £15,000.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £279,517; of which £149,961 is invested in securities, £70,500 is in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies at interest, and £40,857 represents the value of unallocated stores in the Railway Department (Open Lines), Railway Extension and Public Works Department.

In this connection it should be observed that the sum of £120,482 has been expended on the Railway Extension and other works the cost of which will eventually be met from loan; but, in the meantime, it is made a final charge against revenue.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,248,048, which is made up as follows:—

	£
4 per cent. ten year Convertible Bonds ...	518,200
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1929-1954 ...	729,848
Total	£1,248,048

The liability in respect of the public debt was increased by £47, that being the premium on bonds surrendered for stock during the year; but, as bonds to the value of £7,100 were redeemed out of the Sinking Fund, there was a net reduction of this debt by £7,053.

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st December, 1912, were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bonds	73	19	11
Stock	43,004	3	10
Total	£43,078	3	9

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, in respect of its funded debt, after allowing for these amounts, was on that date £1,204,969 16*s.* 3*d.*

Under the terms of issue, the currency of the bonds issued in 1904 will expire in June, 1914; and it will, therefore, be necessary to redeem any unconverted bonds at that date by floating further inscribed stock.

Currency.

In addition to the current coin of the United Kingdom, the following foreign coins were in the year under survey legal tender in Sierra Leone:—

Coins.	Nominal value. Francs.	Legal value. £	*s.*	*d.*
FRENCH COINS:				
Gold:—				
Napoleon	20	0	15	10
Silver:—				
Five-Franc Piece	5	0	3	10½
BELGIAN, SWISS AND ITALIAN COINS:				
Silver:—				
Five-France Piece	5	0	3	10½

Coins.	Nominal value. Dol.	Nominal value. Cts.	Legal value. £	Legal value. s.	Legal value. d.
Spanish (Mexican, &c.) Coins:					
Gold:—					
Doubloon	16	00	3	4	0
United States Coins:					
Eagle	10	00	2	1	0
Half Eagle	5	00	1	0	6
Quarter Eagle	2	50	0	10	3

Of these, however, the French 5-franc piece is the only one frequently met with, it being in considerable use in those districts of the Protectorate which are adjacent to French Guinea.

The institution of a new silver coinage with currency throughout the whole of British West Africa has recently been approved; and a corresponding local note issue is also in contemplation.

General.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1912, was £5,208. The revenue collected during the year from this source amounted to £3,047, thus making a total of £8,255.

The expenditure on various improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected amounted to £3,175, leaving a balance on the 31st December, 1912, of £5,080 available for further similar improvements. These comprise repairs to roads and bridges, the lighting of towns and villages, and other like public works.

The Protectorate House Tax collected during the year amounted to £58,117, as against £52,771 in 1911.

At the end of the year the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund amounted to £1,615, of which a sum of £1,260 has been invested.

Municipalities.

Freetown Municipality.

The revenue of the Municipality during the financial year (1st November, 1911, to 31st October, 1912) amounted to £11,948, while the expenditure during the same period was £11,322.

The following table shows the revenue (including an annual Government grant-in-aid of £1,800) and the expenditure of the Municipality during the five years 1908-1912:—

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1908	9,118	8,851
1909	9,525	9,428
1910	11,313	11,035
1911	12,070	11,172
1912	11,948	11,322

By the Freetown Municipality Amendment Ordinance, 1912, the Municipality was relieved of certain sanitary functions; in consideration of which the annual Government grant-in-aid of £1,800 was withdrawn with effect from the 1st January, 1913.

The Municipality has a debt of £31,568 2*s*. 11*d*. advanced to it by the Government. Of this sum £27,948 2*s*. 11*d*. was in respect of the Freetown waterworks, £2,500 a cemetery loan, and £1,120 the balance of a loan of £1,400 repayable in five annual instalments of £280.

Towards the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the loan of £2,500, £396 12*s*. 6*d*. has been accumulated. The sum of £279 9*s*. 8*d*. is paid annually to the Colonial Government as the proportion of the General Loan Sinking Fund Contribution in respect of the Waterworks Loan. Five annual contributions have hitherto been made, amounting in all to £1,397 8*s*. 4*d*.

Sherbro Municipal Board.

This Board was abolished by the Port of Sherbro Ordinance, 1912, with effect from the 1st January, 1913; when the balance of funds remaining in the hands of the Board, amounting to £339 3*s*. 6*d*., became vested in the Crown. The work which was formerly undertaken by the Municipal Board is now carried out by the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year, after drawbacks and refunds had been deducted, amounted to £309,923, which exceeds the corresponding return for 1911 by £60,328, or 24·2 per cent. The gross revenue from import duties collected in the Sherbro District was £96,728, which shows an increase of £26,575 over that for the preceding year.

The gross amount of customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import is given below in comparison with the figures for 1911:—

Articles.	Years ended 31st December.		Increase or Decrease in 1912 compared with 1911.	
	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, Beer and Porter	1,719	1,772	53	—
Cottons	28,808	35,959	7,151	—
Hats and Caps	1,397	1,451	54	—
Hardware	945	1,040	95	—
Iron Manufactures	2,060	2,218	158	—
Oil (Kerosene)	10,413	11,683	1,270	—
Provisions	2,016	2,009	—	7
Salt	1,986	2,316	330	—
Spirits	120,736	160,543	39,807	—
Sugar	4,027	4,251	224	—
Tobacco, Manufactured (including cigars and cigarettes).	2,990	3,768	778	—
Tobacco, Unmanufactured ...	43,159	47,516	4,357	—
Wines	2,781	3,103	322	—
Woollens	1,394	1,975	581	—
Other minor imports taken collectively.	16,017	19,542	3,525	—
Aggregate receipts ...	240,448	299,146	58,705	7

The items mainly responsible for the increase in import duties during 1912 were cotton goods, spirits, kerosene oil, and tobacco. The marked increase in spirits is due to the laying in of large stocks prior to the coming into force on the 1st of January, 1913, of the Trade Spirits (Regulation of Receptacles) Ordinance, 1912.

Imports.

The total values of the imports for the five years 1908-1912 are as follow:—

	£
1908	813,700
1909	974,581
1910	1,162,470
1911	1,267,231
1912	1,424,864

The importation of specie amounted to £205,461, as compared with £217,832 in 1911; but, as the Freetown branch of the Bank of British West Africa is a distributing centre for practically the whole of West Africa, decreases or increases in the importation of specie cannot be regarded as a sure indication of the financial condition of the Colony. Much of the specie imported does not circulate in the Colony, but is merely retained in the safe custody of the bank to await a favourable opportunity of transmitting it to its destination.

Government imports, which vary with the nature of the public works in course of construction during the year, amounted to £74,630, as compared with £76,673 in 1911, representing 5·24 per cent. of the total imports, as against 6·05 per cent. in the preceding year.

The total value of imports reached an aggregate of £1,424,864, marking an advance of £157,633 over the returns for 1911.

Statistics analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony will be found in Appendix A.

Exports.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone.

The total value of exports in 1912 amounted to £1,540,754 as compared with £1,300,238 in 1911.

The following table exhibits the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1908-1912:—

	£
1908	736,755
1909	981,466
1910	1,249,367
1911	1,300,238
1912	1,540,754

Of the return for 1912 as much as £1,222,946 is represented by the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone; and in the period 1908-1912 the value of produce exported has increased by 130·8 per cent., while the total value of commercial exports, disregarding specie, has also progressed by 131 per cent.

Specie was exported to the value of £190,582, this being an increase of £106 over the previous year.

Palm Products.—The export of palm kernels shows an increase over that of 1911, in weight of 7,859 tons, and in value of £135,830. This result is partly due to the exploitation of vegetable butter, which may become a formidable rival to margarine and lard.

The export of palm oil exceeded that of 1911 by 2,861 gallons, but decreased in value by £2,613, a result due to the slight decline in the price of this product in the European markets.

Germany is the chief market for palm kernels, and the United Kingdom for palm oil; but, while Germany has imported 8,666 tons more of kernels, the United Kingdom has taken 808 tons less than in 1911.

Palm kernels were exported to the value of £793,178, and palm oil to the value of £67,314.

Kola.—The export of kola reached an aggregate of £276,530, representing 1,652 tons, as compared with 1,599 tons, valued at £194,312, in 1911. Only five tons of this export were consigned to Europe, the remainder being shipped to other West African ports. It is possible that the yield in 1913 will surpass even this record output.

Ginger.—The output of ginger in 1912 exceeded that of 1911 by 30 per cent., but it is unlikely that this rate of increase will be maintained, as the home markets are at present glutted with ginger.

The value of the exported ginger was £44,864, representing 2,200 tons, as compared with £44,668 in 1911, representing 1,692 tons. These figures reveal a decline in the market price of this product which is partly due to its adulteration and partly to its condition being impaired owing to its transmission to the coast by the farmers and intermediate traders in an imperfectly dried state.

Piassava.—This trade continued to prosper; the export reaching 1,146 tons, valued at £15,462, as against 906 tons, worth £12,502, in 1911.

Hides.—The number of hides exported was 10,247, this being 4,695 less than in 1911, but the value was £843 greater. Prices in the European markets have advanced by about 25 per cent., which accounts for the recovery in value.

Gum Copal.—This export underwent a further decline, only 17 tons, valued at £1,607, being shipped in 1912, as against 28 tons, valued at £2,966, in the preceding year.

Rice.—30,715 bushels of rice, valued at £5,713, were exported, showing an increase of 8,095 bushels and £998 as compared with the corresponding returns for 1911. The market price was steadily maintained; but this advance, as such, has to be somewhat discounted by the diminished export of rice in 1911 owing to the poor rice crop of 1910, which led to a large quantity being hoarded in 1911 for domestic consumption.

Rubber.—Only 10 tons of rubber, representing £2,962, were exported, as compared with 16 tons, representing £5,918, in 1911, when the returns were themselves lower than those of 1910.

The Forestry Department is now experimenting with types of rubber other than those native to Africa, as the latter have not produced encouraging results.

General features of trade.

The aggregate trade with the United Kingdom showed a decline as compared with that of the previous year, namely £1,184,749 as against £1,264,387; while its percentage of the total trade sank from 49·25 to 39·95 per cent.

The United Kingdom is responsible for 64·01 of the import trade and 17·70 of the export trade, as compared with 75·03 and 24·12 per cent. respectively in 1911.

These variations are partly due to fluctuations in the movements of specie, which, as observed above, are not necessarily governed by local circumstances, and partly to a slight contraction in the volume of palm kernel exports.

Germany is responsible for 11·70 per cent. of the import trade and 45·77 per cent. of the export trade.

The trade with the United States of America is progressing favourably; this tendency being enhanced by the establishment of direct communication with New York. Importations from America consist chiefly of kerosene oil, tobacco, and lumber.

Shipping.

2,139 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 2,676,471 tons were entered and cleared in 1912, as compared with 1,737 ships aggregating 2,493,439 tons in 1911. This increase is a gratifying reflection from the sustained commercial prosperity of the Colony.

These returns include 397 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 4,401 tons, entered, and 409, of an aggregate tonnage of 4,449 tons, cleared.

The corresponding figures for 1911 were:—Sailing vessels entered 263, aggregate tonnage 2,325; sailing vessels cleared 286, aggregate tonnage 3,048.

The following table gives the number and tonnage of steam vessels (distinguishing nationality) entered during the years 1911 and 1912 respectively, together with the proportion per cent. contributed to the total tonnage by the ships of each nation:—

Nationality.	Steam vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.		Percentage proportion to total tonnage entered.	
	1911.		1912.						1911.	1912.
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Belgian ...	35	146,822	3	13,400	—	—	32	133,422	11·78	1·01
British ...	418	855,512	456	932,560	38	77,048	—	—	68·65	70·03
Danish ...	—	—	4	3,376	4	3,376	—	—	—	0·25
French ...	2	2,530	16	4,398	14	1,868	—	—	0·23	0·33
German ...	130	232,638	176	367,226	46	134,593	—	—	18·66	27·57
Greek ...	4	5,024	4	5,024	—	—	—	—	0·40	0·38
Norwegian	3	111	5	2,697	2	2,586	—	—	0·00	0·20
Russian ...	2	1,664	—	—	—	—	2	1,664	0·13	0·00
Spanish ...	1	1,834	2	3,038	1	1,204	—	—	0·15	0·23
Total ...	595	1,246,130	666	1,331,719	105	220,675	34	135,086	100·00	100·00

The United Kingdom claimed 70·03 per cent. of the whole, and has made an advance of 1·38 per cent. since 1911; Germany during the same period, however, has improved her position by 8·91 per cent.

The decline in the return of Belgian vessels is due to the omission of Freetown from the ports of call on the mail route from Belgium to the Congo.

The subjoined table gives a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the years 1908-1912:—

Year.	Inward.		Outward.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1908...	951	1,021,803	959	1,024,249
1909...	1,116	1,096,686	1,133	1,094,446
1910...	892	996,403	943	997,887
1911...	858	1,248,455	879	1,244,984
1912...	1,063	1,336,120	1,077	1,340,350

Agriculture.

The Agricultural Department is now in the second year of its existence. Its chief object is to introduce some form of rotation of crops and to alter the present wasteful method of farming, which consists in cutting and burning fresh bush each year to make the farm. Such farms are only cropped one year, and then the land is allowed to revert to bush. The scarcity of legumes amongst the native crops makes it difficult to form a good rotation, as all the other crops are distinctly exhaustive to the soil. Trial has accordingly been made of various legumes found here and in other tropical countries.

Rice.—Thirty-six varieties of Indian rice and two of Sierra Leone rice were sown in trial plots; but, as they were unavoidably planted at rather too late a date, the results were not so good as otherwise might have been the case. The Sierra Leone varieties proved larger in the grain than the Indian rice, and the Indian rice which is imported into the Colony appears to be inferior to the native-grown product in respect of its nutritive value.

Ginger.—Five different methods of planting ginger were tried, the best results both in quality and quantity being obtained from the deep hoed plot.

The practice of the natives in planting it on laterite gravel is unsatisfactory, as only a knotty fibrous ginger is produced by that method.

Leguminous Crops.—The only leguminous crop of importance in this country is the ground-nut, which forms the staple food of the tribes in the north of the Protectorate. The pigeon pea, however, grows also very well in Sierra Leone.

Cotton.—Trial was made of two varieties of cotton (*a*) West Indian (Sea Island) and (*b*) Cambodia from Southern India.

The Sea Island cotton grew well and withstood the heavy showers of rain satisfactorily. The crop suffered, however, from attacks of the cotton stainer bug.

The native varieties of cotton in Sierra Leone are of a poor quality and of no commercial value.

Cocoa.—Experiments were made with this product, but with only moderate success. Native cocoa plantations are being cultivated in the Northern Sherbro District by the Gallinas tribe, with very fair success. In spite of the long drought in the dry season, the natural humidity of the atmosphere enables the plants to thrive. Considerable quantities of the beans were sold during the year at 3*d.* and 4*d.* a pound, which is encouraging for a first crop; and it is hoped that with care and with some supervision and advice these native cocoa crops may eventually become a distinctly valuable asset to the country.

Imperial Institute.

Two native drugs, namely, *Anet* leaves (believed to be derived from *Tetracera obtusata*) and *Tatuookroo* leaves (believed to be derived from a species of *Cnestis*) were submitted to detailed chemical examination. In the case of *Anet* leaves no active principle could be detected. Extracts of the leaves were made and submitted to an expert for physiological trials, but the only definite results observed were certain symptoms probably due to the presence of a small amount of saponin. It thus appeared improbable that *Anet* leaves have any real medicinal value. The *Tatuookroo* leaves were examined in a similar manner and gave negative results.

A sample of rum stated to have been prepared from sugar-cane grown at Kangahun had a fairly normal taste and a rather sharp fruity odour. It contained only 39·9 grams of alcohol per 100 c.c., a very low proportion compared with the rum imported into the United Kingdom, which generally contains from 58 to 62 grams of alcohol per 100 c.c.

Information was also supplied by the Institute during the year to enquirers in the United Kingdom regarding a number of products from Sierra Leone, including annatto, copal, and African pepper; whilst species of insects attacking cocoa plants in the Colony were identified and suggestions made for their destruction.

Veterinary Branch.

Only a few horses are to be found in Sierra Leone, and they come from over the French border. Most of those examined were found to be suffering from filariasis or trypanosomiasis.

The herds of cattle in the Protectorate suffer from in-breeding and from scarcity of cows. This is partly due to the strict prohibition by the French authorities of the exportation of cows and heifers across the border.

The natives display great ignorance on the general management of live-stock, and especially in the breeding and feeding of cattle.

Numbers of sheep and goats are to be found throughout the Protectorate, and in general they appear to thrive well.

Forestry.

The Forestry Ordinance came into force during the year. It provides for the constitution of reserves and restricted areas in the Colony and Protectorate, and for the regulation of the collection of forest produce and the cutting of timber. The reserves and restricted areas in the Protectorate are to be constituted at the request of the tribal authority. Such constitution, therefore, will not be an act of expropriation, and it is the intention to administer the forests in the interests of the native population.

The 73 square miles of forest situated in the peninsula of the Colony were demarcated and surveyed.

Sixty-one botanical specimens were added to the Forestry Herbarium, duplicates of which were forwarded to Kew for identification. One of them is of great interest as it is probably a new genus of *Euphorbiaceæ* of the tribe *Phyllantheæ.*

Work was carried on in the various nurseries and plantations; seeds of a large number of exotic timber trees were sown; and various kinds of rubber, kola, and gum copal trees were raised with success. The produce of the plantations was seriously damaged by the attacks of animals such as deer and monkeys.

During the year under review the Crown Lands Ordinance was put into force, but the only revenue derived from the natural forest consisted of the fees paid for five timber-cutting licences. 5,200 Para (*Hevea braziliensis*) seedlings from the nurseries were sold to the Christineville Rubber Estate for £41.

Game.

The following were reported as shot by holders of licences during 1912:—

Elephant	11
Hippopotamus	4
Buffalo	5
Water Buck	13
Harnessed Antelope	5
Red Flanked Duiker	4
Kobus Kob	41
Bush Buck	11
Bustard	14
Common Duiker	9
Bush Pig	2

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed in 1912, the most important of which were:—

The Destructive Pests Ordinance, which enables the Agricultural Department to check the spread of insect pests, and in particular to place the importation of cocoa trees under restrictions.

The Forestry Ordinance, which adopts measures for the protection of forest lands in the Colony and Protectorate.

The Trade Spirits (Regulation of Receptacles) Ordinance, which regulates the receptacles in which trade spirits may be imported.

The Distillation of Spirits Prohibition Ordinance, which renders the distillation of spirits illegal within the Colony and Protectorate.

The Special Commission Court Ordinance, which provides for a more appropriate mode of trial of persons charged with offences committed in connection with unlawful societies; the law for dealing with such offenders having been further strengthened by the Human Leopard and Alligator Societies Amendment Ordinance, 1912.

The Supreme Court Amendment Ordinance, 1912, which constitutes an intermediate Court of Appeal in civil and criminal matters, standing between the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of:—

(*a*) Elementary Mission Schools;
(*b*) Industrial or Trades Schools;
(*c*) Secondary Schools (Missionary and Proprietary);
(*d*) The Diocesan Technical School;
(*e*) Fourah Bay College, affiliated to the University of Durham;
(*f*) Government Mohammedan Elementary Schools.

The Elementary Schools derive their revenue from Government grants, school fees, society grants, and voluntary contributions.

The number of Elementary Schools in the Colony proper is 103, of which 92 are assisted by the Government.

The distribution of the Mission Schools of the Colony among the several denominations, together with their enrolment and average attendance, is as follows:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number enrolled.	Average Attendance
Church of England	42	3,397	2,200
Wesleyan	28	2,203	1,346
United Methodist Church	12	750	435
Countess of Huntingdon's Connection ...	10	429	232
Roman Catholic	7	928	620
African Methodist Episcopal	2	308	177
United Brethren in Christ	1	204	90
Seventh Day Adventist	1	101	80
Total	103	8,320	5,180

Compared with the previous year, these figures show a decrease of 229 in the roll number and of 280 in the average attendance; but this decrease is explained by more thorough inspection, the increased attendance in the Mohammedan Schools, and the development of Proprietary Secondary Schools.

The total income of the 92 assisted schools, exclusive of Government grants, was £4,254, of which the school fees amounted to £1,058. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,576. In the result, Government aid largely exceeded the sums contributed by the societies, churches, and subscribers.

The total expenditure was £7,793, as compared with £5,304 in the previous year.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, and hand and eye work are compulsory subjects in the assisted schools. Of the other subjects, sanitation and hygiene and geography are the most popular and show the best results. In the case of female pupils domestic science is still confined to sewing, but a development may be expected in the near future.

The infant schools are now all staffed by female teachers, as a result of persistent effort in the last three years; and a healthy scheme of study, hand-work and recreation has been inaugurated in the majority of the schools.

Marked improvement has been shown in the status and salaries of teachers. Head teachers draw from £40 to £100 per annum, whereas formerly the majority were paid at the rate of £40 per annum; the salaries of assistant teachers are not so high. The salaries of female teachers used to vary from £5 to £36 per annum, whereas now they range from £12 to £80 per annum.

The Mobé Industrial School, which belongs to the Roman Catholic Mission, has an enrolment and average attendance of 61; the school is a residential one and gives instruction in trades such as carpentry, masonry, gardening, smith's work, tailoring, baking and cooking, in addition to English, practical arithmetic, and drawing. The boys belong to the Sherbro and Mendi tribes of the Northern Sherbro district. The school exercises a valuable influence in the neighbourhood and imparts a form of education which without doubt is of great practical benefit to the community.

There are 14 Secondary Schools in the Colony, eight missionary and the remainder proprietary. 1,390 pupils were on the rolls of these institutions; and of these 830 attended the missionary institutions. From these schools come the professional classes, teachers, and clerks. Unfortunately a strong conservatism compels the retention of a system of instruction whose average product is certainly inferior to the average boy or girl in the Higher Grade Elementary Schools in England.

There are five Mohammedan Schools or "Madrassas" for the education of Mohammedan boys and girls; the roll number was 795 and the average attendance 522, as compared with 778 and 456 respectively in 1911. Over 250 are drawn from the peoples of the Protectorate, and the Mandingoes and Timinis continue to lead in numerical superiority.

A satisfactory feature of the year under review is the contribution of a sum of nearly £200 by the Mohammedan community towards the upkeep of these schools; hitherto their revenue had been derived entirely from public funds.

The curriculum is the same as in other assisted schools, with the exception of Arabic, which is taught daily in the hours preceding the morning session.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School continued to give instruction in the sciences relating to the building trade, architecture and surveying, including trigonometrical methods of mensuration.

The highest number of pupils on the roll during the year was 17; the nature of the training is of a valuable and useful kind, and encouraging results were achieved.

The total upkeep of the school involves an expenditure of about £500 per annum, which is met partly by a Government grant and partly by private subscriptions and pupils' fees.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only university college in West Africa. The attendance during the year, as compared with 1911, was stationary, 25 students being on the roll. Nine students matriculated in 1912, amongst whom was the two-hundredth since the affiliation of this college to Durham University in 1876.

The academic results fell below those of 1911 by about 33 per cent.

The financial position of the college has steadily improved; and, although it is not yet self-supporting, yet with the help of the income from the Pan-Anglican endowment (capital £3,000) it is hoped that it will soon become so. This institution deserves credit for its pioneer work in being the first to supply facilities for university education in West Africa. It has been the nursery of a considerable number of clergy, lawyers, doctors, and school teachers; and by a judicious adaptation to the practical needs of the country its beneficent influence may be still further enhanced.

Education in Protectorate Schools.

There were 93 pupils on the roll of the school at Bo, "for the sons and nominees of chiefs," at the end of the year, as compared with 110 in 1911.

The school fees amounted to £948, while the total cost of maintaining the school was £3,443, the balance of £2,495 being met from general revenue. These returns show that, although the pupils declined in number by 17, yet the establishment of the institution became more costly by £611.

The work of the school was continued satisfactorily, and encouraging reports were received from some of the District Commissioners of the intelligence displayed by ex-pupils and of their excellent behaviour on their return to their respective chiefdoms.

The Protectorate schools conducted by the various missionary organisations were inspected by some of the Bo school tutorial staff; and the sum of £313 was distributed in grants-in-aid during the year. These schools include three institutions whose type is distinctly vocational, and are similar to the industrial school at Mobé.

The committee of the Mission Schools has adopted a proposal to encourage the institution of boarding schools, with a view to facilitate a more systematic educational training and a closer supervision over the lives and conduct of their pupils.

The curricula in these schools are at present still of a very elementary character, but in the existing boarding schools the practical or industrial teaching is of a good standard.

1,200 pupils were recorded on the registers of the schools inspected, but of these only about 800 were present on the days of inspection; and even this return has to be somewhat discounted, as it was clear that great efforts had been made to present a good appearance. These figures must only be taken as approximately correct, as registration in Protectorate schools has not yet attained a sufficient degree of accuracy to be entirely depended upon. Over 170 of the pupils were the children of settlers from Freetown.

In the day schools the teachers were found in general to be inefficient, but in the boarding schools a far higher level of instruction was attained.

As a result of the inspections which took place in 1912 a sum of £446 has since been awarded as grants-in-aid.

Several Mohammedan schools are also to be found throughout the Protectorate, but the education given is chiefly of a religious nature. There are signs, however, that some of these schools are being influenced by the development of Mohammedan education in the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

In 1912 the number of patients treated at the various Government hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 2,716 in-patients and 83,082 out-patients, making a total of 85,798; returns which indicate a slight increase of 125 over those of 1911.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,689 in-patients and 26,742 out-patients were treated. The number of operations performed was 316, of which four cases were brought over from 1911; and of this total, 294 were successful, two patients were not relieved, nine died, while 15 cases still remained on hand on the last day of the year.

There were 142 patients under treatment at the lunatic asylum at Kissy; while 160 males and 77 females, including four males and one female admitted into the Infectious Diseases Hospital, were treated in the Kissy institutions during the year.

Twelve cases of leprosy were under treatment; six of the patients died and three absconded, leaving three in the leper ward on the 31st December, 1912.

European Nursing Home.

There were 55 admissions, as compared with 54 during the previous year. The classification of the patients is as follows:—

Officials	24
Mercantile	24
Shipping	7
Total	55

These included 16 cases of malaria.

There were 10 patients invalided; and there was one death from dysentery. The invalidings were from the following causes:—

Nervous debility	1
Blackwater fever	1
Dysentery	3
Rectal abscess	1
Varicose veins	1
Appendicitis	1
Neuritis (alcoholic)	1
Congestion of liver	1

Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank continued to maintain its popularity.

The deposits numbered 10,133, and amounted to £61,383, showing an increase of 975 in number and a decrease of £1,747 in value as compared with the previous year.

The withdrawals totalled 7,637 and amounted to £58,901, an increase of 34 and £380 respectively in comparison with the corresponding figures for 1911.

The average value of each deposit was £6 1*s*. 1*d*., and of each withdrawal £7 14*s*. 3*d*. as against £6 17*s*. 10*d*. and £8 0*s*. 6*d*. in the previous year.

At the end of the year, there were 6,474 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £104,583 10*s*. 3*d*.

The average value of each account was £16 3*s*., as against £16 12*s*. 7*d*. in 1911.

The revenue derived from transferred accounts was £9 11*s*. 3*d*., as against £17 in 1911. As no investment was made during the year, the total amount of Savings Bank investments still stands at £100,162.

The dividends received on investments amounted to £3,482, thus showing an increase of £20 over the returns for 1911; but the profits of the Savings Bank fell from £750 in 1911 to £630 in 1912.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The Police Force is only employed within the Colony, police work in the Protectorate being performed by the Court Messengers under the administration of the District Commissioners.

At the end of the year under review the authorised strength of the force consisted of a total of all ranks of 264, including two European officers, the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner of Police. Discipline was well maintained, and the health of the force was remarkably good.

The Detective Branch consists of a detective sergeant and six constables, and did very useful work both in the prevention and in the detection of crime.

The harbour police is under the charge of a sergeant drawn from the shore police, and two uniformed constables are attached to assist him. They patrol all the bays in the vicinity of the harbour and wharfs by night to protect floating property. They are also charged with enforcing quarantine regulations and with the prevention of breaches of the Foreign Enlistment Ordinance.

The Weights and Measures Ordinance has continued to be strictly enforced, and during the year it was put into force also in the Sherbro District. The number of surprise visits made to the various trading establishments was 473.

The work of the Police School was successfully carried on, and the men attend three times a week from 1 to 3 p.m. A capitation grant of 2*s*. 6*d*. a head is given to the sergeant in charge of the school for each man who passes out.

The finger-print system continued to be carefully worked, 325 impressions being taken and classified in 1912, which brings the total of registered prints up to 2,030.

1,885 cases were reported to the police, 1,621 persons were arrested, 1,290 were convicted, and 331 discharged.

Increases are shown in offences of embezzlement, false pretences, and larceny from dwelling houses; while decreases occurred in the returns of larceny, assaulting the police, and breaches of the Public Health Ordinance. There has been no rise in the records of serious crime, and no case of murder occurred during the year; while the cases of wounding numbered 8 only as compared with 12 in the preceding year.

There were nine outbreaks of fire during the year and 10 houses were destroyed, the total rateable value of the property burnt amounting to £53.

There is a volunteer fire brigade, consisting of 36 men and a native superintendent, which is under the control of the Municipality. The men receive 6*d*. per drill, and these take place about twice a week; they also receive a small sum for each fire they attend. There are no steam or manual engines, and the firemen depend entirely on the water-main hydrants, of which there are nearly 300 in various parts of the town. In serious fires, assistance is always rendered by the military, who bring a manual engine and other necessary appliances.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners received into Freetown Prison in 1912 was 964 as compared with 947 in 1911. This increase was due to the closing of the gaol at Waterloo. The daily average for the year was 236 as against 225 in 1911. There does not appear to be any decrease in the number of habitual criminals.

The sales from the Manufacturing Department amounted to £1,324 as compared with £1,202 in the preceding year.

With the exception of the arrests on charges of cannibalism, the records of the district prisons do not call for comment. The prisoners were employed principally on sanitary works and other employments of public utility.

The cost of maintaining the Prisons Department was £8,166, as compared with £6,581 in 1911.

In the new prison, which is rapidly approaching completion, a considerable number of prisoners were employed during the year, principally on the heavier kinds of labour.

This prison is of the English cellular type, and the now discredited system of association cells which existed in the old gaol has been abandoned. It is anticipated that this change will contribute to the more efficient maintenance of discipline and to a consequent decrease in the number of prison offences.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 72 convictions in that Court during the year, including two for homicide, and 54 for larceny.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown, 1,844 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 2,108 in 1911.

In the District Police Courts of the Colony, at Waterloo and Bonthe, there were 684 persons convicted summarily, as against 526 in 1911.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 52 convictions, as compared with 70 in 1911; and of these 11 were for homicide.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 1,109 convictions, as compared with 705 in the preceding year. This marked increase is due to the closer administration of the country; and a large number of the convictions were for petty offences.

During the year many arrests were made, principally in the Northern Sherbro District, in connexion with crimes committed by members of the Human Leopard Society, a cannibal organisation; and in December a Special Commission Court opened its sessions for the trial of these cases. The Court was composed of a former Chief Justice of the Gold Coast (Sir William Brandford Griffith), the Solicitor-General, and the Police Magistrate.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony was returned at the last decennial census in 1911 as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females); and the number of deaths registered in 1912 was 1,343, which gives the proportion of deaths at 17 per 1,000. The total births registered during the year was 1,332, which in comparison with the population gives a birth-rate of 17 per 1,000 also. The population of Freetown according to the 1911 census was 34,090; the births registered numbered 587, and the deaths 754. These figures show a birth-rate of 17 and a death-rate of 22 per 1,000 respectively. The seven chief causes of death were in the order given as follows:—

1. Diseases of the circulatory system.
2. Diseases of the digestive system.
3. Diseases of the respiratory system.
4. Diseases of the urinary system.
5. Debility.
6. Malaria.
7. Blackwater fever.

It must, however, be stated that only about 25 per cent. of the deaths registered are certified to by medical practitioners.

The infantile death returns for the past 10 years are subjoined:—

1903	471	deaths.
1904	388	,,
1905	461	,,
1906	434	,,
1907	357	,,
1908	351	,,
1909	344	,,
1910	368	,,
1911	310	,,
1912	268	,,

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10 according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate:—

Mendis	442,524	Autocthonous and semi-autocthonous Pagan Groups.
Lokkos	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis)	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	

Foulahs	11,500	Northern invading and Mohammedanising Groups.
Mandingos	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Timinis	347,229	
Limbahs	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
Total ...	1,323,151	

European Population.

The general health of the European population continued to be fair during 1912. The total number of European residents in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was approximately 803, made up as follows:—

Officials	230
Military	389
Non-Officials (as far as could be ascertained)	184
Total	803

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans due to climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate for the last 10 years:—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.		Military.		Totals.
	Climatic.	Non-climatic.	Climatic.	Non-climatic.	Climatic.	Non-climatic.	
1903 ...	2	—	2	2	2	3	11
1904 ...	3	—	2	3	2	2	12
1905 ...	3	—	2	2	1	—	8
1906 ...	3	—	2	1	1	1	8
1907 ...	2	—	3	3	2	3	13
1908 ...	1	—	1	6	3	2	13
1909 ...	3	—	3	—	—	—	6
1910 ...	—	—	9	2	2	2	15
1911 ...	2	5	2	1	—	1	11
1912 ...	—	—	3	3	3	2	11

Of the 11 deaths shown in the above table for 1912, four were amongst Government officials, classified as follows:—

1 blackwater fever.
1 dysentery.
1 hæmorrhage into stomach.
1 strychnine poisoning.

Five amongst the military, classified as follows:—

1 cardiac failure.
1 cardiac failure and heatstroke.
1 malarial alcoholism.
1 cerebral malaria.
1 malaria.

and two amongst non-officials, classified as follows:—

1 blackwater fever.
1 general debility and diarrhoea.

Ninety-eight European officials were placed on the sick list for a total number of 561 days; the average number of days on the sick list for each patient being 5·72, and the daily average on the sick list being 1·53.

General.

There was no case of yellow fever during the year. Three cases, however, of trypanosomiasis were reported from the Protectorate dispensaries. No epidemic of small-pox occurred in Freetown.

Vaccination was carried on as usual both in the Colony and in the Protectorate. 10,298 persons were vaccinated, 8,549 (83 per cent.) with known success.

The returns of malaria show that 2,363 cases were treated, as compared with 2,208 in 1911.

Sanitation.

The administration of sanitary matters and executive action in Freetown continued to be controlled by the Corporation with the Principal Medical Officer as the medical officer of health during the year; but it was decided that certain sanitary matters, viz., the duty of scavenging, the sanitary inspection, as well as the inspection and regulation of new buildings, should be transferred from the charge of the Corporation to that of the Government.

The number of mosquito larvae prosecutions in the Freetown Police Court during the year amounted to 589 as against 1,350 in 1911; and the sum of money collected in fines including costs was £121.

In Freetown the extended gratuitous distribution of quinine, which was instituted last year, was carried on successfully. The Princess Christian Mission Hospital Dispensary and some of the local schools were supplied with the quantities requisitioned for.

The survey preliminary to the re-construction of streets, street-drains, and the regulation of water-courses in Freetown was commenced during the year.

The Brookfields drainage scheme, initiated during the year 1911, was continued during 1912; and a series of observations of the outfall of water was taken at the western outlet, which is the chief one.

The number of destroyed rats brought to the Colonial Hospital, and paid for at the rate of one penny each, amounted to 2,400.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those Chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary condition of their chiefdoms has appeared to merit recognition, and a general survey of the work done in 1912 justifies the claim that the interests of sanitation were appreciably advanced in that year both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

Climate.

At Freetown, in 1912, the mean shade temperature was 80·7°; the highest point recorded being 99·2° in March, and the lowest 62·2° in November.

The rainfall measured 130·07 inches, August being the wettest month, with 34·32 inches, and January the driest, with no rainfall. These returns show a perceptible decline as compared with 1911, in which year the rainfall measured 146·59 inches.

The maximum humidity was 100°, which was recorded in June, July, August, September and October; and the minimum was recorded in April, 46°.

The general direction of the wind was south-westerly; at the beginning and close of the rainy season tornadoes occur, but rarely do much damage.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal business continued to expand throughout the Colony and Protectorate.

The number of Post Offices and Postal Agencies open at the end of the year was 52. Savings Bank business was transacted at nine of these, money order business at 30, and postal order business at 39.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,566,652, as compared with 1,490,618 in 1911. This total was made up as follows:—

—	Letters, Post Cards, Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom...	401,308	9,281	22,478	1,951
Despatched to United Kingdom ...	289,816	27,822	2,015	162
Received from West African Colonies.	134,259	16,174	6,927	16
Despatched to West African Colonies.	121,575	9,737	2,530	12
Internal	469,368	40,434	10,787	—

The money order transactions numbered 12,456, and amounted to £151,469. A comparison with the figures of the previous year shows a decrease in number of 276, but an increase in value of £17,832:—

—	1911.		1912.	
	Number.	Amount	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom...	380	1,913	431	1,963
Despatched to United Kingdom ...	4,001	34,628	3,879	34,167
Received from West African Colonies.	278	2,998	449	4,159
Despatched to West African Colonies.	481	4,309	577	5,664
Internal	7,592	89,789	7,120	105,516
Total	12,732	133,637	12,456	151,469

A marked increase was shown in the postal order transactions. 48,846 orders, amounting to £29,609, were issued, and 35,015 orders, amounting to £23,719, were paid during the year. Compared with 1911, 11,233 more, of the value of £7,412, were issued, and 7,945, of the value of £5,126, were paid.

The postal revenue totalled £9,548, an increase of 8 per cent. when compared with 1911. The customs duty collected in respect of parcels amounted to £2,762, and £3,482 was received as interest on the Savings Bank investments. £2,305 was collected by the Post Office in respect of Inland Revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £12,122, an increase of 7 per cent. over 1911. A sum of £2,162 was paid as interest to Savings Bank depositors.

The only land line telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. The head office is at Water Street, Freetown, and a combined telegraph and telephone service is in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There are two important transmitting centres, (1) at Boia, 64¼ miles, and (2) at Bo, 136 miles up the line, also two sub-transmitting stations, viz., (*a*) at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to and from Port Lokko and Mabanta (Imperial Government military lines), and (*b*) at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch to Bendu (Sherbro), whence telegrams are carried to and from Bonthe and York Island by boat services.

There is a similar combined telegraph and telephone service between Boia Junction and Yonnibanna, a distance of about 37 miles, on the Makump branch line. There is also a telegraph station at Serabu, on the Mano-Bendu line, to serve the districts round Sumbuya and Mafwe.

Telegrams from any part of the Colony and Protectorate can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the West African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown. The telegraphic rate between England and Sierra Leone is 3*s.* 2*d.* a word; and the deferred rate system at half cost is also in operation.

The revenue derived from the railway telegraph department in 1912 was £2,123, as compared with £2,060 in 1911.

There are small telephone services in Freetown connecting certain Government offices with each other and with Hill Station; and the institution of a central telephone exchange serving the whole Colony is now under consideration.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith, C.M.G., who had been Colonial Secretary of the Colony since 1901, was promoted to the Governorship of the Bahamas; and Mr. A. C. Hollis, C.M.G., Secretary for Native Affairs in the British East Africa Protectorate, was appointed to succeed him.

The labours of the Anglo-Liberian Boundary Commission unfortunately proved abortive, but its work has since been resumed.

With the exception of a slight disturbance in the Konnoh section of the Railway District, which arose out of the reluctance of certain towns to pay the House Tax, the attitude of the natives towards the administration and generally has been pacific and satisfactory.

Railways.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles.

There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Yonnibanna, a distance of 36¾ miles. An extension of this line northward to Makump was commenced in 1910 and was approaching completion in December last. It has been decided to continue it across the Rokelle river in the direction of Makene, a town in the Karene District about 14 miles beyond that river; and construction has already commenced. When completed, the total length of the branch line from Boia Junction will be about 83 miles, and it will reach the heart of one of the richest palm belts of the Protectorate.

A mountain line, 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. This Station stands 800 feet above sea level.

There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus with the Government Wharf, Government Quarry (Public Works Department) and the Recreation Ground.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations and flag stations is 52.

Working expenses amounted to £75,490, and the earnings to £141,844, showing a net revenue of £66,354. This result must be regarded as satisfactory, as it indicates a yield of about 5½ per cent. on the capital expenditure. In 1911 the earnings amounted to £107,320, and the net revenue to £37,817.

A sum of £26,902 was spent on "Capital Works," and the allocation of working expenditure was as follows:—

	£
Way and Works	22,452
Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon ...	28,856
Traffic	14,999
General	9,183
	75,490

	1911.	1912.
Total number of passengers ...	339,332	382,485
Goods; tonnage	55,540	61,918
Train miles	261,056	299,601
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Receipts per train mile ...	8 2·94	9 5·63

Working expenses per open and train mile:—

	1911.			1912.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Per open mile ...	272	0	6·82	295	9	2·5
Per train mile ...	0	5	4·19	0	5	2·5

	1911.	1912.
Rolling Stock:—		
Locomotive engines	—	34
Coaching vehicles	59	—
Goods vehicles	215	—
	—	274
Breakdown vans	—	2
Breakdown travelling crane ...	—	1

Roads.

Certain reinforced concrete bridges and a number of concrete culverts were constructed on various Colony roads in the neighbourhood of Freetown. Six miles of new road were constructed, and the main road from Freetown to Hill Station was widened and its surface improved.

Maintenance work was continued on the roads in the Protectorate. The surface of the Blama-Boagibu road was strengthened for a length of about two miles from Blama by putting on a layer of broken syenite. Transport by hand-truck was practicable on the road during the entire rainy season; and this mode of transport is also in vogue over part of the Hangha-Panguma road.

Some of the more important second-class roads were also improved, the chiefs supplying the labour and the Government supplying tools and also a small proportion of the supervision of the work.

Maintenance of the third-class roads continued as usual under the supervision of the District Commissioners, and some of these roads were extended.

A separate Roads Department has now been established with effect from the 1st January, 1913, and the European staff has been increased.

Public Works.

Freetown and neighbourhood.—During the year under review good progress was made in the construction of the new Law Courts and of the new Freetown Prison, while the Government Model School was brought to completion. In the grounds of the latter a manual training school with a store and an office for the headmaster were also built.

The Government printing office was altered and enlarged to accommodate new machinery.

Five additional stone bungalows were built as quarters for certain of the European staff.

The large reservoir at Hill Station was lined with bitumen sheeting protected by a layer of concrete; and a subsidiary dam was constructed to increase the dry weather supply to the Hill Station main.

The Quarantine Station at Cape Sierra Leone was renovated and improved.

Bonthe.—The shore span of the jetty was re-constructed, the old concrete pillars and wooden deck being replaced by steel screw piles and a concrete decking.

Protectorate.—Work was begun at Pujehun on the Government buildings required on the transfer to that town from Bandajuma of the headquarters of the Northern Sherbro District.

At Bo a number of water tanks were erected for the European quarters, while at Daru certain improvements were effected in the quarters and other buildings of the West African Frontier Force.

Commercial and General Outlook.

The year under review proved one of satisfactory progress and prosperity in the various departments of the administration and in the condition of the people generally. As to the latter, a partial reservation should perhaps be made in respect of the Northern Sherbro District, in a portion of which the native tribal administration was somewhat disorganised owing to the unrest arising from the action taken by the Government with a view to repress the activities of the Human Leopard Society. That unrest is, however, only of a local and, it is hoped, of a temporary character.

The newly formed Agricultural and Forestry Departments have now settled down firmly to the furtherance of their several interests; and the advent of European firms engaged in the exploitation of farm and forest produce is a growing feature of the Protectorate.

Many up-country trading stations are conducting a flourishing business; education is making an appreciable advance, while missionary enterprise has so far extended already that the ecclesiastical authorities have determined on the institution of a Protectorate archidiaconate.

Although the financial prosperity of Sierra Leone remains as ever inseparably bound up with the scale of prices which her products can command in the European markets, both retrospect on the past and a judicious estimate of existing conditions enable one to look forward to the future with reasonable satisfaction and confidence.

A. C. HOLLIS,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
5th July, 1913.

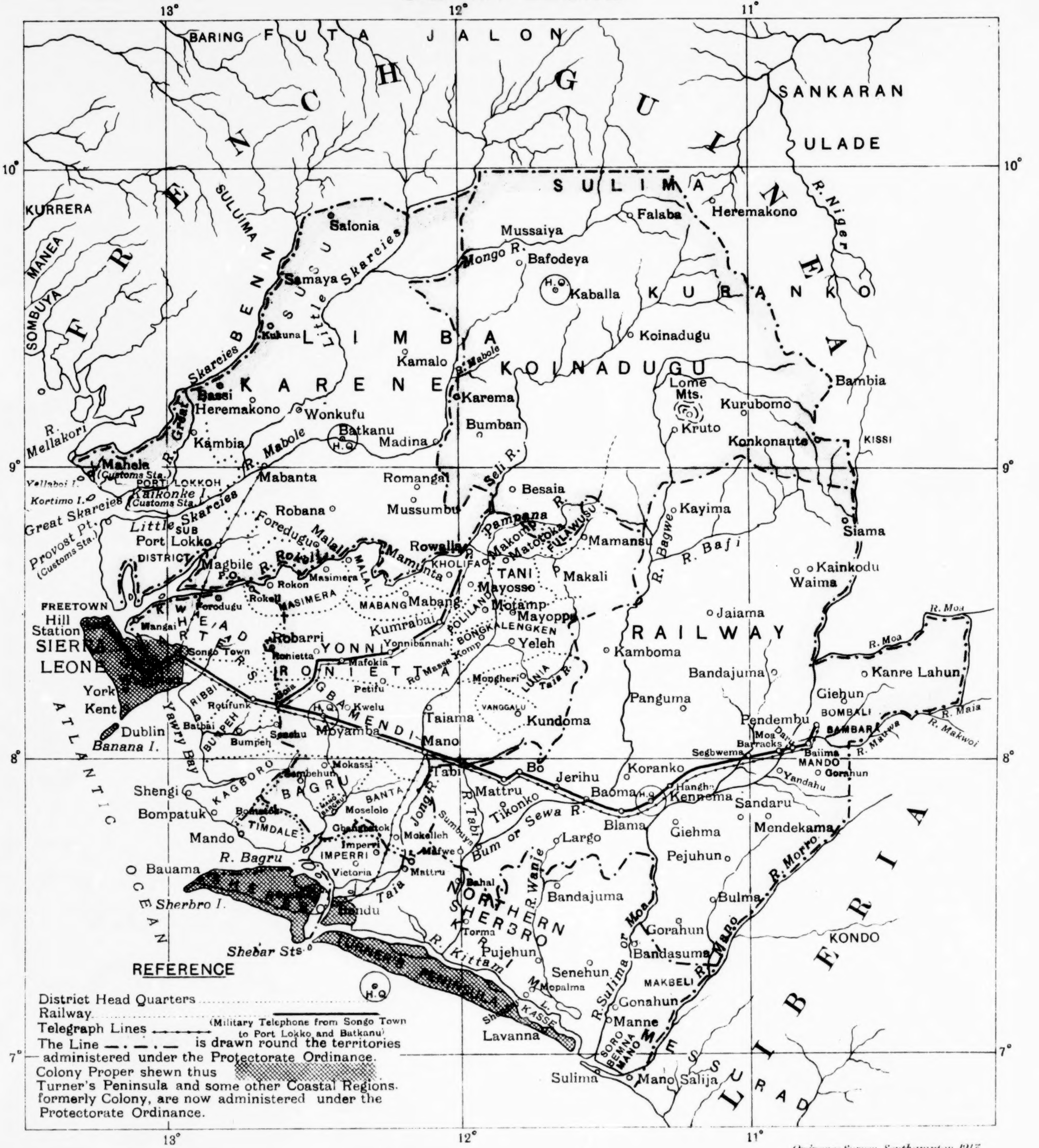
APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the importation of spirits into Sierra Leone during the five years ended 31st December, 1912.

Year.	Quantity in gallons. *	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.
		£	£			
1908	305,233	43,244	70,553	From 1st January, 1906, 4*s.* the Imperial gallon, and from 14th August, 1908, 5*s.* the Imperial gallon or part thereof not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of one penny for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5·31 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1909	303,537	46,054	83,416	As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 4·73 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1910	413,791	59,281	111,930	As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5·09 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1911	457,911	76,144	120,736	As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6·01 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1912	626,061	89,590	160,543	As above till 4th March, 1912. From that date 5*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 4*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6·29 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	288,022

* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

SIERRA LEONE


13°
12°
11°
10°
9°
8°
7°
F U T A J A L O N
BARING
F R E N C H G U I N E A
SANKARAN
ULADE
KURRERA
MANEA
SOMBUYA
SULUIMA
SULIMA
R. Niger
Falaba
Heremakono
Mussaiya
Mongo R.
Bafodeya
Kaballa
H.Q.
K U R A N K O
Koinadugu
Salonia
Samaya
Little Skarcies
B E N N A
S U S U
Kukuna
L I M B A
Kamalo
R. Mabole
K O I N A D U G U
K A R E N E
Karema
Bassi
Heremakono
Wonkufu
Batkanu
Madina
Bumban
Lome Mts.
Kurubomo
Kruto
Konkonante
Bambia
KISSI
R. Mellakori
Great Skarcies
Kambia
Mahela (Customs Sta.)
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
PORT LOKKOH
Kaikonke I. Customs Sta.
Mabanta
Romangai
Seli R.
Besaia
Mussumbu
Robana
Kayima
Provost Pt. (Customs Sta.)
Little Skarcies
SUB Port Lokko DISTRICT
Foredugu
Malal
Rowalla
Pampana R.
Makomp
Matotoka
FULAWUSU
Mamansu
R. Bagwe
R. Bafi
Siama
Kainkodu
Waima
Magbile
R. Rokell
P.O.
Rokon
Masimera
MALAL
Mamunta
KHOLIFA
TANI
Makali
FREETOWN
Hill Station
Forodugu
Rokell
MASIMERA
MABANG
Mabang
Mayosso
Motamp
Mayoppa
POLILAND
Jaiama
Mangai
K W E A H
R A I L W A Y
SIERRA LEONE
Songo Town
Kumrabai
BONGKALENGKEN
Yeleh
Kamboma
Robarri
Ronietta
Y O N N I
Yonnibannah
R O N I E T T A
Mafokia
Masse Komp
R. Moa
Kanre Lahun
Bandajuma
York
Kent
Dublin
Banana I.
Yawry Bay
RIBBI
Rotifunk
Batbai
BUMPEH
Bumpeh
Bole
Senehu
Petifu
Kwelu
Moyamba
G B A M E N D I
Mongheri
LUNIA
Taie R.
VANGOGALU
Kundoma
Taiama
Mano
Panguma
Giehun
BOMBALI
Pendembu
BAMBARA
Moa
Daru
Barracks
Segbwema
R. Maia
R. Makwoi
R. Mafwa
Baiima
MANDO
Gorahun
Yandahu
Bo
Jerihu
Koranko
Baoma
Hangha
Kennema
Sandaru
Mendekama
Tabi
Mattru
Tikonko
Jong R.
R. Tabe
Bum or Sewa R.
Largo
Blama
Giehma
Pejuhun
Shengi
Bompatuk
Mando
KAGBORO
Mokassi
Sembehun
B A G R U
BANTA
Moselolo
TIMDALE
Bonthe
Ghangbatok
Imperri
IMPERRI
Mokelleh
Mafwe
Victoria
Mattru
Sumbuya
R. Bagru
Bauama
A T L A N T I C   O C E A N
Sherbro I.
Bendu
Taia R.
Bahal
N O R T H E R N   S H E R B R O
K R I M
R. Wanje
Bandajuma
Bulma
R. Morro
L I B E R I A
KONDO
Shebar Sts.
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
Torma
Pujehun
Gorahun
Bandasuma
R. Sulima or Moa
R. Mano
Senehun
MAKBELI
Mopalma
L. KASSE
Gonahun
Manne
SORO
BEMNA
MANO
Lavanna
Sulima
Mano Salija
M E S U R A D O
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
Railway
Telegraph Lines
(Military Telephone from Songo Town to Port Lokko and Batkanu)
The Line — · — · — is drawn round the territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.
Colony Proper shewn thus
Turner's Peninsula and some other Coastal Regions, formerly Colony, are now administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
727	Fiji	1911
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911-1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911-1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911-1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911-1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911-1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"
750	Straits Settlements...	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911-1912
752	St. Lucia	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911-1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	"
757	Weihaiwei	"
758	Ceylon	1911-1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

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1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 808.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 759.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1914.

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No. 808.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 759.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
24th July, 1914

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1913, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. E. Evelyn, I.S.O.

I have, &c.,
E. M. MEREWETHER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

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I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1913 exceeded that for 1912 by £58,528, which is a satisfactory indication of the continued prosperity of the Colony.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of revenue, as compared with the preceding year.

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1912.			Revenue for 1913.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	301,140	6	7	317,463	2	3	16,322	15	8		—	
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse dues ..	6,508	10	3	6,937	11	3	429	1	0		—	
Licenses and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	75,012	13	0	79,745	0	1	4,732	7	1		—	
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ..	15,082	7	5	17,853	2	6	2,770	15	1		—	
Post Office and Savings Bank ..	9,546	17	5	14,486	17	10	4,940	0	5		—	
Rents on Government Property ..	386	3	4	416	18	1	30	14	9		—	
Interest	10,397	9	10	12,323	15	9	1,926	5	11		—	
Miscellaneous Receipts	858	2	6	1,820	19	4	962	16	10		—	
Sierra Leone Government Railway ..	140,873	6	2	167,304	0	0	26,430	13	10		—	
Land Sales	48	15	6	31	10	0		—		17	5	6
Total .. £	559,854	12	0	618,382	17	1	58,545	10	7	17	5	6
				Net Increase £			58,528	5	1			

The total revenue for the five years 1909 to 1913 was as follows :—

Year.	£
1909	361,326
1910	424,215
1911	457,759
1912	559,855
1913	618,383

Expenditure.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure, as compared with the preceding year :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1912.			Expenditure for 1913.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d
Charge on account of Public Debt ..	61,249	3	6	61,573	17	0	324	13	6	—		
Pensions	7,359	18	6	8,228	8	10	868	10	4	—		
Governor and Legislature	6,771	6	2	6,442	12	3	—			328	13	11
Colonial Secretary's Department ..	8,079	16	8	8,189	16	10	110	0	2	—		
Provincial Administration	31,307	10	11	33,877	2	8	2,569	11	9	—		
Treasury	4,342	6	9	4,813	1	0	470	14	3	—		
Customs Department	14,243	4	8	14,682	12	6	439	7	10	—		
Audit Department ..	2,605	0	1	3,050	16	0	445	15	11	—		
Port and Marine Department	1,332	1	8	3,288	10	5	1,956	8	9	—		
Legal Departments ..	8,761	18	8	11,669	18	5	2,907	19	9	—		
Civil Police	9,183	5	8	10,082	9	0	899	3	4	—		
Prisons	8,166	9	6	8,632	19	8	466	10	2	—		
Medical Department..	25,863	0	7	30,047	10	9	4,184	10	2	—		
Sanitary Department	4,831	15	2	8,950	13	10	4,118	18	8	—		
Education	11,926	5	11	13,295	16	5	1,369	10	6	—		
Post Office	12,121	10	10	12,124	0	3	2	9	5	—		
West African Frontier Force	24,120	3	9	40,638	1	6	16,517	17	9	—		
Sierra Leone Government Railway ..	101,891	12	2	146,060	2	5	44,168	10	3	—		
Agricultural Department	3,123	17	8	2,841	14	7	—			282	3	1
Forestry Department	3.289	16	5	3,584	9	9	294	13	4	—		
Miscellaneous Services	17,952	4	11	23,913	11	2	5,961	6	3	—		
Protectorate Roads Department ..	—			7,558	6	9	7,558	6	9	—		
Public Works Department	12,039	1	4	13,621	13	5	1,582	12	1	—		
Public Works Recurrent	21,330	11	11	18,897	0	4	—			2,433	11	7
Public Works Extraordinary.. ..	48,771	15	7	58,856	9	4	10,084	13	9	—		
Public Works (Special)	1,605	11	10	11,632	19	9	10,027	7	11	—		
Survey of the Colony and Protectorate ..	—			228	7	6	228	7	6	—		
Freetown Water Works	—			6,656	16	1	6,656	16	1	—		
Central Railway Construction	72,147	18	5	48,999	7	6	—			23,148	10	11
Total .. £	524,417	9	3	622,439	5	11	124,214	16	2	26,192	19	6
						Net Increase..	98,021	16	8			

The total expenditure for the years 1909 to 1913 was as follows :—

Year.	£
1909	336,746
1910	361,222
1911	432,448
1912	524,417
1913	622,439

The above total expenditure for 1913 includes £59,137 on works to be met ultimately from loan, and £6,657 on the extension of Freetown Water Works, the actual cost of which will be treated as a loan to the City Council of Freetown.

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on work and undertakings chargeable to loan funds amounted to £10,001. Of this sum £300 was spent on the Railway Construction (Freetown-Songo section) and £9,701 on the Yonni-Rowalla section of the Railway Extension.

The charge against Railway Extension represents the surplus balance remaining out of the 1904 loan.

In addition to the expenditure detailed above, the sum of £60,700 has been utilized out of the proceeds of the loan issued on the 30th December, 1913, for reducing a portion of the outstanding bonds of the 1904 loan, as provided in the Public Loan Ordinance of 1913.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £275,460, of which £149,961 is invested in securities, and £87,000 is in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies at interest.

In addition to the accumulated surplus balance stated above, the sum of £178,936 has been expended on works chargeable to loan, and has been made a final charge against revenue pending reimbursement.

Advances have also been made as mentioned above for the extension of the Freetown Water Works amounting to £6,657.

The gross excess of assets over liabilities at the end of the year under review therefore exceeds £460,000.

Public Debt.

The Funded Debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,295,676, which is made up as follows :—

	£
4 per cent. Ten-year Convertible Bonds	449,700
$3\frac{1}{2}\%$ Inscribed Stock 1929–1954	729,848
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock 1938–1963	116,128
Total	£1,295,676

The liability in respect of the Public Debt was increased during the year by £116,128, being the amount received from applicants for stock on account of the loan of £1,000,000 issued on the 30th of December, 1913, but it was correspondingly reduced to the extent of £60,700 by the redemption of outstanding bonds of the 1904 loan. Bonds to the value of £7,800 were also redeemed out of the Sinking Fund.

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st of December, 1913, are as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bonds	26	7	10
Stock	51,949	18	10
	£51,976	6	8

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, after allowing for these amounts, is £1,243,699 13*s.* 4*d.*

The loan of £1,000,000 referred to above was issued by the Crown Agents on the 30th of December last in the form of 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock at the price of 97 per cent.

Currency.

By a Proclamation of the 26th of June, 1913, the West African silver coinage was introduced with the intention that it shall gradually supersede the Imperial silver currency, and coins to the value of £43,000 have been successfully brought into circulation.

In addition to the Imperial coinage and the West African coinage, the five franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland are legal tender in Sierra Leone, the value of each being 3*s.* 10½*d.* sterling.

General.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1913, amounted to £5,080. The revenue collected during the year from this source amounted to £2,634, thus making a total of £7,714.

The expenditure on various works and improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected amounted to £3,861, leaving a balance on the 31st of December, 1913, of £3,853.

The Protectorate House Tax collected during the year amounted to £60,314, as compared with £58,117 in 1912.

At the end of the year the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund amounted to £2,153, of which a sum of £1,613 has been invested.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Freetown Municipality.

The revenue of the Municipality during the financial year commencing on the 1st of November, 1912, and ending on the 31st of October, 1913, amounted to £12,414, while the expenditure during the same period was £9,851.

The following table shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Municipality during the five years 1909 to 1912 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909	9,525 ..	9,428
1910	11,313 ..	11,035
1911	12,070 ..	11,172
1912	11,948 ..	11,322
1913	12,414 ..	9,851

Up to the 31st of December, 1912, an annual grant-in-aid of £1,800 was made by the Government. By the Freetown Municipality Amendment Ordinance of 1912 the Municipality was relieved of certain sanitary functions, in consideration of which the Government has withdrawn its grant-in-aid with effect from the 1st of January, 1913.

The Municipality has a debt of £31,288 2*s*. 11*d*. advanced to it by the Government. Of this sum £27,948 2*s*. 11*d*. was in respect of the Freetown Water Works, £2,500 a cemetery loan, and £840 the balance of a loan of £1,400 in aid of revenue, repayable in five annual instalments of £280.

Towards the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the loan of £2,500, a sum of £511 9*s*. 10*d*. has been accumulated. The sum of £279 9*s*. 8*d*. is paid annually to the Colonial Government as the proportion of the General Loan Sinking Fund contribution in respect of the Water Works loan. Six annual contributions have been made, amounting in all to £1,676 18*s*. 0*d*.

The Port of Sherbro Fund.

The Port of Sherbro Ordinance, 1912, abolished the Sherbro Municipal Board, with effect from the 1st of January, 1913, when the funds remaining in the hands of the Board, amounting to £339 3*s*. 6*d*., became vested in the Crown as the Port of Sherbro Fund. The receipts during the year, including the annual contribution of £300 from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund, were £933 12*s*. 10*d*., which makes a total of £1,272 16*s*. 4*d*. The expenditure amounted to £320 7*s*. 7*d*., leaving a balance of £952 8*s*. 9*d*.

Funds are thus available for carrying out improvements in the town of Bonthe and other places within the limits of the Port of Sherbro.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total revenue derived during the year from the Customs duty, which was the largest yet collected in the Colony, must be attributed to general prosperity.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year, after drawbacks and refunds had been deducted, amounted to £326,033, which exceeds the corresponding return for 1912 by £16,110. The increase was almost entirely collected in Freetown.

The gross revenue derived from import duties collected in the Port of Sherbro was £78,238, which shows a decrease of £15,203 as compared with the return of the preceding year.

The decrease in the receipts from the Port of Sherbro may be regarded as temporary, being due partly to a decline in the revenue derived from spirits consequent upon the laying in of large stocks in 1912 in order to forestall the Trade Spirits Ordinance (No. 9 of 1912) and partly to the unsettled state of trade caused by unrest in the Northern Sherbro District in consequence of measures taken by the Government to repress the activities of the Human Leopard Society.

The gross amount of customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import is given below in comparison with the figures for 1912 :—

Articles.	Years ended 31st December.		Increase or decrease in 1913 compared with 1912.	
	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, Beer and Porter	1,772	2,476	704	—
Cottons	35,959	39,348	3,389	—
Hats and Caps	1,451	1,734	283	—
Hardware	1,040	1,133	93	—
Metal Manufactures (other than those mentioned above) ..	2,218	3,435	1,217	—
Oil (Kerosene)	11,683	12,987	1,304	—
Provisions	2,009	1,502	—	507
Salt	2,316	1,469	—	847
Spirits	160,543	167,491	6,948	—
Sugar	4,251	2,935	—	1,316
Tobacco, Manufactured ..	3,768	5,397	1,629	—
Tobacco, Unmanufactured ..	47,516	49,267	1,751	—
Wines	3,103	3,599	496	—
Woollens..	1,975	2,533	558	—
Other minor imports	19,542	20,436	894	—
Aggregate receipts	£299,146	£315,742	£19,266	£2,670

Total net increase £16,596

The items chiefly responsible for the increase in import duties during 1913 were again spirits, cotton, tobacco and kerosene oil. To these may be added metal manufactures.

The decrease in the import duties on sugar, salt and provisions was due to their exemption from duty, which dated from the month of August.

Imports.

The total values of the imports for the five years 1909–1913 are as follows :—

Year.	£
1909	974,581
1910	1,162,470
1911	1,267,231
1912	1,424,864
1913	1,750,303

The value of imports into Sierra Leone during 1913 not only shows an increase of £325,439, or 22·84 per cent., as compared with 1912, but also exceeds all previous records.

Government imports amounted to £146,053, as compared with £74,630 in the previous year, representing 8·34 per cent. of the total imports, as against 5·24 per cent. in 1912. This large increase in the value of Government imports is due to the extensive Government works in process of construction in the year under review, and also to a larger importation of railway materials, including rolling stock, which became necessary to cope with the expanding traffic with the Protectorate.

The statistics given in Appendix A, analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony, would seem to indicate the almost total disappearance of imports of strong spirits, commonly known as white spirit. Although the liquid quantity of spirits imported in 1913 exceeds that imported in 1912, it will be observed that the volume of pure alcohol is less. This result is attributed to the increased duties, which have rendered the trade in this commodity unprofitable.

The importation of specie amounted to £312,268, as compared with £205,461 in 1912, but as the Freetown branch of the Bank of British West Africa is a distributing centre for practically the whole of West Africa, any decrease or increase in the importation of specie cannot be regarded as a conclusive indication of the financial condition of the Colony. The increase in imports of specie in this year, however, was not solely due to the operations of the Bank of British West Africa as a distributing centre for other parts of West Africa, but also to the increased amount of cash put into circulation in consequence of the exceptional prices paid locally for domestic exports, to expansion in trade generally and to consignments of the new West African coinage.

Exports.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years, 1909-1913 :—

Year.	£
1909	981,466
1910	1,249,367
1911	1,300,238
1912	1,540,754
1913	1,731,252

Of the return for 1913 as much as £1,376,603 is represented by the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone, as against £1,222,946 in 1912, showing an increase in this respect of £153,657.

Specie was exported to the value of £240,964, this amount being an increase of £50,382 over the return for the previous year.

Palm Products.

Palm Kernels. The exports during 1913 show a falling off in volume of 1,550 tons, but an increase in value of £127,765.

In a year when prices have been the highest yet recorded, and when more tracts of country have been opened up by railway communication, it is unsatisfactory to have to record a decrease in the volume of this commodity. This decrease is, however, adequately accounted for by the temporary withdrawal of labour from the palm kernel industry to the railway construction.

Germany continued to be the chief market for palm kernels. Out of a total tonnage of 49,201 tons, 43,016 tons were destined for Hamburg ; the greater part of this amount was carried in British bottoms.

The export of this commodity to Germany has again increased, and that to the United Kingdom has again decreased, as compared with the preceding year.

Palm Oil. A decrease of 111,420 gallons, valued at £10,655, is shown in the export of this commodity as compared with 1912, although the average price in the European markets was in advance of that of previous years, and attractive prices were offered locally.

As in the case of palm kernels, the reason advanced for the decline is scarcity of labour. It may also be partially attributed to the unsettled condition of the Northern Sherbro District, alluded to above.

Palm oil was exported during this year to the value of £56,659. 509,688 gallons were shipped to the United Kingdom and 69,786 gallons to Germany, as compared with 639,394 gallons to the United Kingdom and 63,447 gallons to Germany in the preceding year.

Kola Nuts. The export of kola nuts reached an aggregate of £328,003, representing 1,865 tons, as against £276,530, representing 1,652 tons in the preceding year. The increase is probably due to the greater demand in French and Portuguese Guinea, Dakar, and the Gambia, owing to the prosperity of those places consequent upon an exceptionally successful ground-nut season. The extension of the railway and the entrance of Syrians into the trade has also contributed to the increased exports.

Although the market for this commodity is still almost entirely limited to West Africa, it has become one of the most important exports from Sierra Leone.

Ginger. The quantity of exported ginger was 2,048 tons, valued at £35,468, as compared with 2,200 tons, valued at £44,864, in 1912. The decline of exports is due to the fall in prices caused by over-supply in the European market. At least one third of the crop was not harvested.

Almost the whole of the ginger exported is consigned to the United Kingdom.

Piassava. The exports reached 839 tons, valued at £12,280, as against 1,146 tons, worth £15,462, in 1912. Of this quantity the United Kingdom received 302 tons, while 537 tons were sent to Germany.

Hides. The number of hides exported is returned as 9,789, this being 458 less than in 1912. The value, however, was £208 greater. The further decline in these figures is attributed to the growth of a native export trade over the frontier to French Guinea, where better prices are obtainable than in Freetown.

Gum Copal. 24 tons of this commodity were exported, as against 17 tons in 1912. The value was £2,682, as compared with £1,607 in the preceding year.

The whole quantity was shipped to the United Kingdom.

Rice. 21,546 bushels, valued at £3,990, were exported, showing a decrease of 9,169 bushels and £1,723 as compared with the corresponding return for 1912.

Practically all the rice exported is consigned to other West African countries.

Rubber. Only 6 tons were exported, as compared with 10 tons in 1912 ; the values were £1,292 and £2,962 respectively.

General Features of Trade.

The aggregate increase of imports and exports indicated above was chiefly due to the exceptional prices paid for the principal items of domestic produce during 1913. The purchasing power thus increased, and the masses have generally been more prosperous.

The aggregate trade with the United Kingdom showed an increase as compared with that of the preceding year, being £1,368,774 as against £1,184,749, while its proportion to the total trade continued to show a slight sinking tendency, being 39·31 per cent. as against 39·95 per cent. in 1912.

The United Kingdom is responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade and of 13·29 per cent. of the export trade, as compared with 64·01 per cent. and 17·70 per cent. in 1912.

The decline in exports is due to smaller shipments of ginger and palm products.

Germany is responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade. These figures indicate a rise of about 4 per cent. in exports and a fall of about 2 per cent. in imports as compared with 1912.

After the United Kingdom and Germany the other British West African Possessions come next in importance, and show an increase with regard to both imports and exports, which has in both cases, however, been contributed by specie. As pointed out above, in this Colony the movement of specie bears no relation to trade demands.

Foreign West African Possessions have advanced their transactions in total trade with this Colony by £57,807. There is a substantial increase in exports represented by large shipments of kola nuts to Dakar.

The trade with the United States of America continues to progress favourably.

Shipping.

1989 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,931,085 tons, were entered and cleared, as compared with 2,139 ships, aggregating 2,676,471 tons, the year before.

The large increase of tonnage is a further indication of the continued prosperity of the Colony.

These returns include 291 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 3,405 tons, entered, and 292, of an aggregate tonnage of 3,417 tons, cleared.

The corresponding figures for 1912 were :--

Sailing vessels entered, 397; aggregate tonnage, 4,401. Sailing vessels cleared, 409; aggregate tonnage, 4,449.

The following table gives the number and tonnage of steam vessels (distinguishing nationality) entered during 1912 and 1913, respectively, together with the proportion per cent. contributed to the total tonnage by the ships of each nation.

Nationality.	Steam vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.		Percentage proportion to total tonnage entered.	
	1912.		1913.						1912.	1913.
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.		
Belgian	3	13,400	—	—	—	—	3	13,400	1·01	—
British	456	932,560	476	1,024,869	20	92,309	—	—	70·03	70·19
Danish	4	3,376	5	4,661	1	1,285	—	—	·25	·32
Dutch	—	—	3	887	3	887	—	—	—	·06
French	16	4,398	14	8,266	—	3,868	2	—	·33	·57
German	176	367,226	191	406,811	15	39,585	—	—	27·57	27·86
Grecian	4	5,024	5	6,773	1	1,749	—	—	·38	·46
Italian	—	—	1	2,221	1	2,221	—	—	—	·15
Norwegian ..	5	2,697	5	2,253	—	—	—	444	·20	·15
Spanish	2	3,038	2	3,456	—	418	—	—	·23	·24
Total	666	1,331,719	702	1,460,197	41	142,322	5	13,844	100·00	100·00

The above table shows that the British and German tonnages entirely dominate the shipping trade of the Colony.

The subjoined table, which gives a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the years 1909 to 1913, does not appear to call for any remarks or explanations.

Year.	Inward.		Outward.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1909	1,116	1,096,686	1,133	1,094,446
1910	892	996,403	943	997,887
1911	858	1,248,455	879	1,244,984
1912	1,063	1,336,120	1,077	1,340,350
1913	993	1,463,602	996	1,467,483

Agriculture.

One of the main objects of the Agricultural Department is to improve the present wasteful system of farming by demonstrating the superiority of scientific methods.

In 1913 more land was opened up at the Experimental Farm at Mano, and an experiment was made with deep hoeing. This was shown to be of great benefit to the succeeding crop.

Rice. Many more varieties of local rice have been planted this year than in 1912. The area under Indian rice has been increased, and it has now been proved that this rice will grow in Sierra Leone.

It is intended next year to distribute samples of Indian rice for trial in the various chiefdoms.

Ground-nuts. An experiment in growing ground-nuts in lines was made this year with the object of facilitating the harvesting, but it was found that no advantage is to be gained on the flat by such a method.

Cocoa. Native cocoa plantations have been formed in the Northern Sherbro District, and many chiefs have shown themselves interested in growing this product. Cocoa plantations have accordingly been formed at the Experimental Farm, where, in spite of the long dry season, they appear to be doing well. Shade has been afforded by banana trees.

Leguminous Crops. Pigeon pea, black gram, and various other crops are being planted for experimental purposes. Pigeon pea is found wild in some parts of the Protectorate, but it is not used by the natives as a foodstuff.

A trial was again made this year of West Indian cotton, but it did not do so well as in the previous year. A great proportion of the cotton became affected by the red rust fungus.

The Experimental Farm is now getting more widely known, and many chiefs have visited it during the year under survey.

Various seeds have been distributed to chiefs for trial in their own chiefdoms.

During the year several agricultural shows were held in various localities. The suspicion with which in some cases the chiefs tended to regard this innovation was due to a large extent to the conservatism natural to hitherto unprogressive races. On the whole the shows were a great success, and it is hoped that, by holding them annually in future, the interest of the people in agriculture will be stimulated and maintained.

Summary of Work Done by the Imperial Institute on Behalf of the Colony.

Samples of Cambodia and Sea Island cotton grown at the Experimental Farm were found to be of good quality, the former being valued at 7·50*d.* per lb. ginned, with "middling" American at 6·75*d.* per lb., and the latter at from 16*d.* to 17*d.* per lb. ginned, with "fine" and "extra fine" Sea Island cotton at 16*d.* and 19*d.* per lb. respectively.

A sample of Para rubber, prepared from trees six years old by coagulating the latex with lime juice, was stated to be of very satisfactory composition. The rubber was valued at possibly 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb. in London at a time when fine plantation Para biscuits were at 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 3½*d.*, and fine hard Para rubber at 3*s.* 1*d.* per lb. A second sample obtained from trees from four to five years old was not quite so satisfactory in composition as the first sample, the latex being coagulated by evaporation. It was, however, much superior in appearance and physical properties, and was valued at probably 2*s.* per lb. in London. It was suggested that in further experiments acetic acid should be employed as a coagulant for the latex.

"Kroo" beans (*Vigna catjang*) were found to be of normal composition and to contain no alkaloids or cyanogenetic glucosides. Their value in the United Kingdom as a feeding stuff was estimated at from £5 10*s.* 0*d.* to £5 15*s.* 0*d.* per ton.

Two samples of "Towe" beans (*Phaseolus lunatus*) were found to yield considerable quantities of prussic acid, and would, therefore, appear to be unsuitable for consumption. It is, however, said that the natives use this vegetable to a great extent as a food stuff without any apparent ill effect.

A sample of palm fruits of the ordinary thick shelled type was examined for comparison with previous specimens from other sources. The pulp of the fruits was thin and contained a lower percentage of oil than usual, so that the fruits as a whole gave a low yield of palm oil. The fruits furnished about the average proportion of kernels, and the kernels contained a normal amount of fat.

Two samples of castor seed of the Sierra Leone and Indian varieties yielded 41·8 per cent. and 46·1 per cent of oil, respectively, as compared with 46 to 53 per cent. usually recorded for commercial castor seed. The Indian seed was valued at about £11 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and the Sierra Leone variety at possibly slightly less, on account of the lower yield of oil.

A small consignment of "Carapa Procera" seeds was examined for comparison with previous samples from Sierra Leone. The good kernels contained 7·5 per cent. of moisture and yielded 60 per cent. of oil, as compared with 57 per cent. in the case of one of the earlier samples. They are valued at from £11 5*s*. 0*d*. to £11 10*s*. 0*d*. per ton.

Two samples of turmeric were found to differ somewhat from typical turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) and appeared to be derived from an allied species. It was recommended that, if the product is likely to be obtainable in commercial quantities, a small trial shipment should be forwarded, so that technical trials may be carried out and its value determined.

Forestry.

The most important development during the year under review was demarcation and survey of a forest reservation extending over an area of nearly 6,000 acres, and comprising the gum copal forests which are situated on the Kassewe Hills, some twenty-four miles north-east of Moyamba and six miles east of Yonnibanna.

The trees have been greatly over-tapped, but it is anticipated that a complete rest of five or more years will restore them to a healthy condition. Under proper management this area should give an annual yield of between 80 and 100 tons of gum copal.

Work continued to be carried out in the various nurseries and plantations, and altogether thirty-four specimens were added to the Forestry Herbarium.

The Roman Catholic Missions throughout the Protectorate have done excellent work in planting the various rubbers; the school children are taught the proper method of cultivation. At Serabu twenty Para trees which were tapped gave a yield of 14lb. of rubber. This yield is quite up to the average.

Game.

The following were reported as shot by holders of licences during 1912:—

Elephant	6
Buffalo	7
Water-buck	2
Harnessed antelope	1
Wart-hog	1
Red-river hog	1

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-seven Ordinances were passed in 1913, among the more important of which were the following :—

The Patents Ordinance, which empowers the Governor to grant Letters Patent for inventions already patented in the United Kingdom. A register of patents is set up. Provisional protection may be obtained for inventions not yet patented.

*The Opium Ordinance, to give effect to the measures decided upon in the International Opium Convention signed at the Hague on the 23rd of January, 1912, regulating the use of opium and similar drugs.

The Palm Oil Ordinance, which enables the Governor to grant exclusive rights, in limited areas, to construct mills for the extraction of oil from palm fruit.

The Trade Marks Ordinance, which establishes a local register of trade marks.

The Native Labour (Foreign Service) Ordinance, which prescribes the terms on which native labourers may be engaged for service outside the Colony.

The Public Loan Ordinance, to make provision for raising a loan of £1,000,000 for the redemption of bonds of the 1904 loan, railway extension and harbour works.

The Spirits (Prohibited Areas) Ordinance, which restricts the importation, and regulates the sale, of spirits within defined areas.

In June, 1913, an Order in Council was passed increasing the duty on imported spirits, the effect of which is embodied in Appendix A.

In August, 1913, an Order in Council was passed by which practically all articles of food and drink for human consumption, except spirits and alcoholic liquors, are exempted from import duty.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of :—

(*a*) Elementary Mission Schools ;
(*b*) The Government Model School ;
(*c*) The Industrial or Trade Schools ;
(*d*) Secondary Schools ;
(*e*) Government Mohammedan Elementary Schools ;
(*f*) The Diocesan Technical School ;
(*g*) Fourah Bay College (which is affiliated to the University of Durham).

The elementary schools derive their revenue from Government grants, school fees, society grants and voluntary contributions.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony is 105, of which 97 are assisted by the Government.

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*Not yet in force.

The distribution of the elementary mission schools of the Colony among the several denominations is as follows :—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	46	3,210	2,051
Wesleyan Methodist	28	2,203	1,320
United Methodist	12	755	455
Roman Catholic	7	558	426
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	7	368	225
African Methodist Episcopal	2	167	110
United Brethren in Christ	2	154	87
Seventh Day Adventist	1	50	35
Total	105	7,465	4,709

Compared with the previous year these figures show a decrease of 855 in the roll number and of 471 in the average attendance. This decrease is mainly attributed to stricter registration and less overcrowding in the schools.

The total income of the 27 assisted elementary schools, exclusive of Government grants, was £4,371, of which the school fees amounted to £1,067. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,635.

The total expenditure was £7,018, as compared with £7,793 in the previous year, a smaller number of building schemes being undertaken.

Reading, writing, arithmetic and hand and eye work are compulsory subjects in the assisted schools. The last mentioned subject is, however, not allowed on the curriculum till teachers have obtained the necessary qualifications. In addition to the above subjects a good deal of practical work has been introduced, which has had a marked effect on the tone and progress of the schools.

It is still premature to expect very great changes from the new system of education instituted in 1911, but, on the whole, instruction proceeds on more intelligent lines, and the wholesale use of mechanical methods is gradually dying out even in the rural districts. In the urban schools a higher standard of intelligence has been reached and maintained. The children speak and write correct and simple English, and arithmetic is taught on a practical basis.

The Government Model School, a higher grade elementary school, began work in January, 1913. The staff consists of three Europeans and eleven native teachers. The school curriculum includes hand and eye work, hygiene and sanitation, singing, drill, and nature study ; in connection with the last mentioned subject a school museum has been started.

The school has been just over one year in existence, but the outlook is full of promise.

There are two industrial schools in the Colony, one at Mobe, in the Northern Sherbro District, belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission and assisted by the Government, and the other at Waterloo, in the Headquarters District, owned by the Seventh Day Adventists and unassisted. The enrolment and average attendance at the Mobe school were 64 and 43 respectively. Instruction is given in definite trades, such as carpentry, smith's work, baking, farming and elementary engineering. There is a great demand for boys trained in this school among the commercial firms at Bonthe, and it is justly popular among the Mende and Sherbro peoples of the district, as it possesses no quality hostile to the organization and constitution of the tribe.

The Waterloo school deals almost entirely with Creole boys. The curriculum is drawn up on similar lines to that of the Mobe school, but literary subjects are also taught. This type of school is best adapted to the rural districts.

There are 13 secondary schools in the Colony, eight missionary and the remainder proprietary. 1,359 pupils were on the rolls of these institutions, and of these 830 attended the missionary schools. These schools are the main sources of supply for the Civil Service and the professions. There are no Government grant-aided secondary schools.

There are five Mohammedan schools or madrasas for the education of Mohammedan boys and girls; the roll number was 685 and the average attendance 398, as compared with 795 and 522 in the previous year. The opening of the Government Model School accounts very largely for this decrease. Over a third of the children belong to the tribes of the Protectorate, and consist mainly of Mandingoes, Temnes, Susus and Fulahs. The subjects taught are the same as in other assisted schools, with the addition of Arabic. The method of manual training has now been introduced with advantageous results.

Up to 1912 the revenue of these schools was derived entirely from public funds. In that year a sum of nearly £200 was collected for special purposes. The Mohammedan community continue to show their appreciation of the advantages afforded by the Government; in the year under review the sum of £85 was contributed to the school funds.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School continued to give instruction in the sciences relating to the building trade, architecture and surveying, including trigonometrical methods of mensuration. The practical nature of the training is of a valuable and useful kind, and the results which were achieved more than justify the existence of this institution.

The total number of students on the roll of the school during the year was 18.

The total upkeep of the school involves an expenditure of about £500, which is met partly by private subscriptions, sale of work, and pupils' fees, and partly by a Government grant.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only University college in West Africa. The attendance during the year as compared with 1912 showed a satisfactory increase, the names of 31 students being on the roll at the end of the year. The number matriculated in 1913 was 10, as against 9 in 1912.

The financial position of the college has continued to improve; since July, 1913, it has succeeded in paying its way.

Protectorate Schools.

There were 94 pupils on the roll of the school at Bo for the sons and nominees of chiefs at the end of the year, as compared with 93 at the end of 1912. Of these, 87 were in attendance.

The school fees amounted to £812, while the total cost of maintaining the school was £3,630, the balance of £2,818 being met from general revenue. These returns show a further increase in the cost of the establishment of £187, while the school fees decreased by £136.

Although useful work was performed during the year, the school does not appear to be as popular among the chiefs as might be expected, some of whom have complained that they find a difficulty in providing the annual school fee. The fall in the fees is due partly to this attitude on the part of the chiefs and partly to the unsettled state of the Northern Sherbro District.

The Protectorate schools conducted by the various missionary organizations were again inspected during 1913. The result of the inspection shows a considerable and general improvement, which was, however, most marked in the boarding schools.

1,507 pupils were recorded on the registers of the schools inspected, as compared with 1,200 in the preceding year, but it is probable that the number actually in attendance did not exceed about 1,000.

As a result of the inspections which took place in 1913, £447 has been awarded by the Government as grants-in-aid.

Several Mohammedan schools are also to be found in the Protectorate, but the education given is chiefly of a religious nature. There are signs, however, that some of these institutions are being influenced by the development of Mohammedan education in the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

In 1913 the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 28,811 out-patients and 2,725 in-patients, making a total of 31,536, as compared with 41,946 in the preceding year. Of these cases 2,724 were diagnosed as malaria.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,513 individuals were treated as in-patients, compared with 1,688 in the preceding year. The attendances of out-patients numbered 22,445, showing a decrease of 4,297 as compared with 1912.

The number of operations performed was 365, which shows an increase of 49 over the figures of the preceding year. In addition to this number, 16 cases remained in hospital from 1912. Of the total of 381 operations thus arrived at 354 were successful, one case was not relieved and 15 patients died. 11 cases still remained under treatment on the last day of the year.

At the Lunatic Asylum at Kissy there was a total of 158 patients under treatment, of whom 43 were admitted during the year. This total shows an increase of 16 over the total of the preceding year. Of these 158 patients, 17 were relieved and discharged, one absconded and 23 died, leaving a total of 117 at the close of the year.

At the Female Incurable Hospital there were 24 patients at the beginning of the year and 57 were admitted during the year. 33 patients were discharged and 19 deaths occurred. On the 31st of December 29 patients remained.

At the Male Incurable Hospital there were 69 patients at the beginning of the year. During the year 100 were admitted, 8 were discharged as cured, 19 were relieved and discharged, 28 absconded and 44 died.

At the Leper Asylum there were 3 patients at the opening of the year and 10 were subsequently admitted; of these 1 died and 10 absconded.

19 cases were treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Of these 1 died and 18 were discharged.

European Nursing Home.

There were 70 admissions into this institution. The classification of the patients is as follows :—

Officials	20
Mercantile	43
Shipping	6
Missionary	1
Total	70

(These included 20 cases of malaria.)

Savings Bank.

The popularity of the Post Office Savings Bank was maintained.

The deposits numbered 11,222 and amounted to £63,233, showing an increase of 1,089 in number and of £1,850 in value over the preceding year.

The withdrawals totalled 7,641 and amounted to £56,869, showing an increase of 4 and a decrease of £2,032, respectively, in comparison with the figures for 1912.

The average value of each deposit was £5 10*s*. 11*d*. and of each withdrawal £7 8*s*. 10*d*., as against £6 1*s*. 1*d*. and £7 14*s*. 3*d*. in the previous year.

1,763 accounts were opened during the year and 1,125 were closed, showing a net increase of 638.

At the end of the year the names of 7,112 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £113,359.

The average value of each account was £15 18*s*. 9*d*., as compared with £16 3*s*. 0*d*. in 1912.

The revenue derived from transferred accounts was £11 1*s.* 11*d.*, as against £9 11*s.* 3*d.* in 1912. Investments amounting to £9,000 were made during the year, bringing the total sum invested to £109,162.

The dividends received on investments amounted to £3,466, showing a decrease of £16 as compared with the return for 1912. The profits of the savings bank again fell, declining from £630 to £483.

435 cheque books, the use of which is confined to literate depositors, were issued in this year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is employed only within the Colony, police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of court messengers under the administration of the District Commissioners.

At the end of the year under review the authorised strength of the police force consisted of a total of all ranks of 265, including three European officers, the Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners of Police. The discipline was again well maintained. The health of the force was good.

The detective branch did useful work both in investigating crime and in making enquiries into various matters on behalf of the Government.

The harbour police continued to patrol by night the bays and wharfs in the vicinity of the harbour, in order to protect property. They are also charged with enforcing quarantine regulations, and in general they perform all the duties which naturally fall to the lot of such a body.

The finger print system continued to be carefully worked, 277 impressions being taken and classified during the year. This brings the total of registered prints up to 2,307.

1,859 cases were reported to the police. In 80 per cent. of these cases arrests were made. Of the persons arrested 81 per cent. were convicted, the remainder being discharged.

Decreases occurred in offences of common assault, embezzlement, false pretences, and larceny from dwelling-houses, while increases are shown in the returns of larceny from the person, larceny from a ship, and offences under the Public Health Ordinance.

There has been no rise in the records of serious crime; no case of murder occurred during the year, and cases of wounding numbered only 8, a figure which is identical with that of 1912.

Fire Brigade.

There is in Freetown a volunteer fire brigade, which is under the control of the Municipality. In serious fires the military are always prepared to render assistance.

There were seven accidental outbreaks of fire during the year resulting in the destruction of property of the rateable value of £56.

In addition to this three cases of arson occurred, but a conflagration was in each case prevented.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners received into Freetown prison in 1913 was 1,053, as compared with 964 in 1912. This increase was due partly to the sentences of imprisonment passed by the Special Commission Court, which was appointed in December, 1912, to try persons committed for trial for offences in connexion with unlawful societies, and partly to the closing of the District prison at Waterloo and the transfer to Freetown of prisoners committed to prison there. During the year 146 prisoners were transferred from the Headquarters District and Protectorate gaols to the Freetown prison. The daily average for the year was 276, as against 236 for the preceding year.

About two-thirds of the prisoners were employed on work in connexion with the building of the new prison. Prisoners were also employed on tailoring, repairs to boots and shoes, carpentry, and the cleaning of Government lands. The sales from the manufacturing department amounted to £1,235, as compared with £1,324 in 1912.

The building of the new prison has progressed satisfactorily. It is now almost complete.

With the exception of an epidemic of beri-beri in the prison at the commencement of the year and a severe outbreak of chicken pox in March the health of the prisoners was good. There were eighteen deaths from illness and seven executions during the year.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 66 convictions in that Court during the year, including one for murder and 37 for larceny.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown 2,012 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 1844 in 1912.

In the District Courts of the Colony, at Waterloo and Bonthe, there were 722 persons convicted summarily, as against 684 in the preceding year.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 85 convictions, as compared with 52 in 1912; of these 6 were for murder and 2 for manslaughter.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 663 convictions, as compared with 1,088 in the preceding year.

It is unsatisfactory to have to record that the class of habitual criminals is steadily on the increase.

The Special Commission Court, to which reference has been made above, continued its sittings until the 15th of May, 1913.

Altogether 108 persons were committed for trial. Three died without being charged, and 34 were dealt with by the Court in the following way:—

Nine were sentenced to death, 2 to imprisonment for life, 8 to terms of imprisonment varying in duration from one to fourteen years, and of the 15 remaining who were acquitted, in the case of 11 expulsion orders were recommended under Section 11 of Ordinance No. 18 of 1912. The recommendations were carried out.

The death sentence was in two cases subsequently commuted to imprisonment for life.

In addition to the above a considerable number of individuals was expelled under various statutory powers.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European residents was 1,267, comprised as follows :—

Officials	244
Military	738
Non-Officials	285
Total ..	1,267

The number of Europeans resident in the Colony at any given moment was, of course, substantially less. The average number of military residents, as indicated by quarterly returns, was 380.

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans due to climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate for the last ten years :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1904 ..	3	—	2	3	2	2	12
1905 ..	3	—	2	2	1	—	8
1906 ..	3	—	2	1	1	1	8
1907 ..	2	—	3	3	2	3	13
1908 ..	1	—	1	6	3	2	13
1909 ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	6
1910 ..	—	—	9	2	2	2	15
1911 ..	2	5	2	1	—	1	11
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10

Of the ten deaths shown in the above table three were of Government officials, classified as follows :—1 dysentery, 1 accident, 1 black-water fever (died in England while on leave).

Five were amongst the military, classified as follows:—2 malaria, 1 blackwater, 1 peritonitis, 1 drowning; and 2 were amongst non-officials and non-military population, classified as follows:—1 malaria, 1 blackwater fever. 97 European officials were placed on the sick list for a total number of 948 days, the average number of days on the sick list for each patient being 9·77 and the daily average on the sick list 2·59. 13 Government officials and 46 non-officials, of whom 25 were military, were invalided.

The causes which led to the invaliding of the several officials are as follows:—Adenitis 1, neurasthenia 1, dysentery 1, alcoholism 1, purpura 1, medeastinal tumor 1, hepatitis 2, neuralgia 1, tuberculosis, 1, duodenal ulcer 1, hæmasthenia 1, psoriasis 1.

Population of the Colony.

The population of the Colony was returned at the last decennial census in 1911 as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths during 1913 was 1,337, or 18 per 1,000, and of births 1,190, or 15 per 1,000 of the population.

The population of Freetown, according to the 1911 census, was 34,090; the births registered in 1913 numbered 590 and the deaths 778. These figures show a birth-rate of 17 and a death-rate of 23 per 1,000 respectively.

The chief causes of death in Freetown were in the order given as follows:—1. Diseases of the nervous system. 2. Malarial fever. 3. Diseases of the respiratory system. 4. Diseases of the digestive system. 5. Premature births 6. Diseases of the circulatory system. 7. Tuberculosis.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last ten years are subjoined:—

1904	240
1905	296
1906	242
1907	210
1908	222
1909	188
1910	214
1911	156
1912	195
1913	221

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10, according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate :—

Mendis	442,524	Autocthonous and semi-autocthonous pagan groups.
Lokkos	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis)	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	
Foulahs	11,500	Northern invading and Mohammedanizing groups.
Mandingoes	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Timinis	347,229	
Limbahs	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
	1,323,151	

General.

The returns of births and deaths in the Colony given above are only approximate, as registration was compulsory in Freetown only. The Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance, however, providing for compulsory registration in the Colony, came into force on the 1st of January, 1914.

Eight cases of sleeping sickness came under observation in Freetown during the last six months of the year. It is, however, unsafe with the present data to draw any conclusion as to whether this disease is on the increase in Sierra Leone.

Out of a total of 773 deaths for the year in Freetown, 45 are returned as due to tuberculosis. The percentage obtained from these figures is about 1·32 per 1,000 living, at all ages.

No case of yellow fever was recorded during the year, and no serious epidemic of any kind occurred either in the Colony or Protectorate.

The returns of malaria show that 2,724 cases were treated, as compared with 2,363 in 1912.

Vaccination was carried on as usual, both in the Colony and in the Protectorate. 9,371 persons were vaccinated, 6,311 (67 per cent.) with known success.

Sanitation.

On the 1st of January, 1913, the duty of scavenging, sanitary inspection, and inspection and regulation of new buildings was transferred from the charge of the corporation to that of the Government.

The number of mosquito larvae prosecutions during the year in the Freetown Police Court was 753, as against 589 in 1912. The sum of money collected in fines was £183. As these are now Government prosecutions there are no costs.

The pipe-borne water supply, of which Freetown has for some years been in possession, has resulted in the reduction of the stegomyia index to a low figure, but much still remains to be done in this respect. The condition of the earth trenches, which only partially serve to drain away the surface water, and which themselves in some places retain for considerable periods the water which they have collected, call for the effective system of drainage which it is hoped to introduce at no very distant date. The survey preliminary to the reconstruction of streets and street drains and the regulation of water-courses in Freetown was continued throughout the year.

The work in connection with the Brookfields drainage scheme, initiated in 1911, was carried on. The work when completed will, it is anticipated, effect a great improvement in the sanitation of the Brookfields area.

The number of destroyed rats brought to the Colonial Hospital, and paid for at the rate of one penny each, amounted to 2,816.

The gratuitous distribution of quinine in Freetown was again continued.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary condition of their chiefdoms has appeared to merit recognition.

Climate.

At Freetown in 1913 the mean shade temperature was 80·3°. The highest point recorded was 101·4° in May, and the lowest 60° in December.

The rainfall at Freetown measured 124·46 inches, August being the wettest month with 36·22 inches, and February and March the driest with no rainfall. These returns, by showing a further decline as compared with 1912, emphasize the fact that of late years there has been an appreciable and persistent shrinkage in the rainfall.

The humidity was greatest for the month of August, when the mean was 89·0 per cent., and least for March, when it was 41·7 per cent.

The prevailing direction of the wind is south-westerly. At the beginning and end of the rainy season tornadoes occur, but rarely do much damage.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal business transacted during the year showed a steady increase.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 53. Savings bank business was transacted at 9 of these, money order business at 30, and postal order business at 41.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,641,394, as compared with 1,566,652 in 1912. This total was made up as follows :—

	Letters, Postcards and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	397,489	9,663	19,095	2,188
Despatched to United Kingdom	222,837	27,783	2,298	134
Received from West African Colonies ..	139,258	17,572	9,059	13
Despatched to West African Colonies ..	136,938	11,348	2,935	7
Internal	586,661	41,144	14,972	—

The money order transactions numbered 12,272, and amounted to £150,068. A comparison with the figures of the previous year shows a decrease in the number of money order transactions of 184, representing the sum of £1,401.

	1912.		1913.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom	431	1,963	430	2,391
Despatched to United Kingdom	3,879	34,167	3,441	33,788
Received from West African Colonies ..	499	4,159	464	5,147
Despatched to West African Colonies ..	577	5,664	604	6,661
Internal	7,120	105,516	7,333	102,081
Total	12,456	151,469	12,272	150,068

A further substantial increase was shown in the postal order transactions. 60,704 orders, amounting to £37,790, were issued, and 43,995 orders, amounting to £29,667, were paid during the year. Compared with 1912, 11,858 more, valued at £8,181, were issued, and 8,980 more, valued at £5,948, were paid.

The postal revenue totalled £14,487, showing an increase of £4,939 as compared with 1912. The customs duty collected in respect of parcels amounted to £2,588, and stamps to the value of £2,491 were sold in connexion with the inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £12,124, which shows an increase of £2 over the figures for 1912.

The only land line telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. The head office is at Water Street, Freetown, and a combined telegraph and a telephone service is in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There are two important transmitting centres:—(1) at Boia, 64½ miles, and (2) at Bo, 136 miles up the line; also two sub-transmitting stations, viz., (a) at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to and from Port Lokko and Mabanta (Imperial Government military lines), and (b) at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch to Bendu (Sherbro), whence telegrams are carried to and from Bonthe and York Island by boat services.

There is a similar combined telegraph and telephone service between Boia Junction and Makump, a distance of about 67 miles, on the Makene extension. There is also a telegraph station at Serabu, on the Mano-Bendu line, to serve the districts round Sumbuya and Mafwe.

Telegrams from any part of the Colony and Protectorate can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown. The telegraphic rate between England and Sierra Leone is 3*s*. 2*d*. a word, and the deferred rate system at half cost is also in operation.

A wireless station was opened in Freetown in 1913, under the control of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

The revenue derived from the railway telegraph department in 1913 was £2,355, as compared with £2,123 in 1912.

There are small telephone services in Freetown connecting certain Government offices with each other and with Hill Station.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The labours of the Anglo-Liberian Boundary Commission were resumed, and will, it is hoped, be brought to a successful termination during the present year.

An accurate survey of the Colony and Protectorate was commenced.

On the 6th of December a violent gale broke over the Colony, and the fleet of canoes which plies between the Bullom Shore and Freetown, having on board over 400 persons, was blown out to sea. Several of the canoes were picked up by passing vessels, some as far as 120 miles out at sea, but it was chiefly owing to the efforts of the cable ship stationed at Freetown, belonging to the African Direct Telegraph Company, that a calamity of the greatest magnitude was averted. In the course of her search the cable ship picked up 186 people, and it is probable that not more than 30 lives have been lost. The gratitude of the Government is due alike to the Directors of the African Direct

Telegraph Company for their generosity for allowing the cable ship to undertake a search for the missing boats, and to her officers and crew for the efficient manner in which they discharged this work. It is also due to Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company for their valuable co-operation, and to the officers and men of the "Slavonia" and of the "Professor Woermann" and other vessels for the services which they rendered to the cause of humanity by picking up the survivors of the disaster. The prompt action taken on this occasion has been much appreciated by the native population, and will, it is hoped, tend to cement the feeling of goodwill which they bear towards the Government.

Railway.

Owing to the increasing traffic it has been found necessary to increase the equipment generally and to purchase additional engines and rolling stock. Two additional crossing stations are being constructed on the main line in order to shorten certain sections and increase the carrying capacity of the railway.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street Terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Makump, a distance of 66¾ miles. This line is being continued to Makene. The total length from Boia to Makene is about 83 miles.

A mountain line, 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. This station stands over 800 feet above sea level. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government wharf, the Government quarry (Public Works Department) and the recreation ground and Ascension Town cemetery.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations and flag stations is 46. The total mileage open up to the 31st of December, 1913, was 300 miles, exclusive of sidings.

Working expenses amounted to £90,155 and the earnings to £168,418, showing a net revenue of £78,263. The capital cost of construction of the line open for traffic (i.e., exclusive of the sections Rowalla-Makene and Makene-Baga) was £1,353,713. The net earnings therefore represent 5·78 per cent. of the capital expenditure. In 1912 the earnings amounted to £142,147 and the net revenue to £66,440.

The above figures for 1913 and 1912 include the revenue from and the expenditure on a Government sand elevator, and those for 1913 include in addition the revenue from and expenditure on a concrete block factory and cranes on the Government wharf.

A sum of £56,328 was spent on new buildings, additional equipment, etc., and was provided for out of general revenue.

The allocation of working expenditure was as follows :—

	£
Way and Works	28,868
Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	35,287
Traffic	16,297
General	9,703
	£90,155

	1912.	1913.
Total number of passengers ..	382,485	438,388
Goods, Tonnage	61,918	62,084
Train miles	299,601	354,212

	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Receipts per train mile.. ..	9 5·87	9 6·11

Working expenses per open and train mile :—

	1912.			1913.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Per open mile ..	291	14	9·6	303	0	9·96
Per train mile ..	—	5	0·65	—	5	1·09

The rolling stock in use consisted of 39 locomotive engines, 59 coaching vehicles, 268 goods vehicles. The goods vehicles include 2 breakdown vans and two sand wagons, in addition to one breakdown crane.

Roads.

In addition to the ordinary maintenance work, new culverts were constructed on various roads in the Colony, and several bridges were reconstructed.

The roads in the Protectorate were in this year, for the first time, placed under the supervision of a separate department, the Protectorate Roads Department, which was responsible for carrying out a considerable amount of important work in various localities.

The paramount chiefs provide the greater part of the unskilled labour for road construction. Generally they show a keen interest in the work and are fully alive to the advantage of a good system of roads. Some of the more advanced chiefs have already commenced to construct feeder roads to various railway stations.

Public Works.

During the year under review good progress was continued in the construction of the new Law Courts and of the new Freetown prison. The latter work is now practically complete, and both should be finished during the present year.

Three new bungalows were erected at Hill Station, and served temporarily to relieve the pressure due to the increase of the European staff of various departments out of all proportion to the increase of accommodation which it has hitherto been found possible to provide.

It is hoped in the future to raise the proportion of Government bungalows to European officials, and to maintain it at an adequate level.

In addition to the above works actually undertaken, plans have been prepared for the construction of the new Government House at Hill Station and of the new Hospital in Freetown.

Work was commenced during the year on the construction of a new pipe line, which is being made with the purpose of supplementing the present Freetown water supply by bringing water from the Babadori valley to the Tower Hill reservoir by means of gravitation.

A survey was also made for a proposed pumping station to supplement the gravitation supply.

Work which has been undertaken in connexion with the increase of jetty accommodation at Freetown made satisfactory progress during the year.

In addition to the works mentioned above much useful work was done in other localities than Freetown. At Pujehun, the new capital of Northern Sherbro District, quarters for the District Commissioner and the Assistant District Commissioner were completed. The Medical Officer's quarters were built and roofed in. The hospital was carried up to window head level and the construction of the gaol was put in hand. All these buildings are of concrete block construction with corrugated iron roofs, and are similar to the quarters recently built at Hill Station and in Freetown.

Among other works the water-supply of Kennema was improved, and a commodious post office was erected at Port Lokkoh.

General.

The year under review has been a period of peace and progress. There has been a general rise in the revenue of the various districts of the Protectorate, due in a measure to a general increase in trade, which has itself been fostered by the recognised policy of establishing a proper system of communication.

A new era has dawned for the Protectorate, and a new and spreading spirit is beginning to pervade its more accessible parts—the spirit of commercial enterprise. This spirit is illustrated by the activity of a number of substantial traders along the new branch line of the railway, by an increase in the number of Syrian traders in the Karene District, and by the numerous petty traders and trading centres which exist, in spite of the hitherto bad system of communication, in the Northern Sherbro District.

This commercial spirit is not confined to Europeans, Syrians and Sierra Leoneans, but has been disseminated and is taking root in the native population, as may be seen from the general increase of hawkers' licences. In the Northern Sherbro District hawking has become so general that it is tending to weaken the native industries.

Messrs. Lever Brothers' factory at Yonnibanna, which has been opened, is not only a token of future development, but also a landmark in the economic history of Sierra Leone.

Connected with the broadening influences of commerce, there is discernible the germ of a social awakening in the life of the people. In one district, at any rate, the common folk are awakening to a sense of their true position in the tribe. Men and women who were formerly merged in the family of a powerful relative are beginning to realize their own importance and to demand their rights as individuals.

True progress must come from within and cannot be imposed from without. This symptom is, therefore, one of the most promising signs of the times. Though the germ may take a long time to mature, it is hoped that by fostering it in the years to come it may ultimately develope into a robust and progressive organism.

The year that has passed away may be reasonably regarded as one of satisfactory progress in every branch of the Administration. A scrutiny of all the facts brings into prominence various signs which point unmistakably forward to a period before the Colony of increasing development and prosperity.

E. E. Evelyn,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
17th July, 1914.

APPENDIX A.*

Statement showing the Importations of Spirits during the Five Years ended 31st December, 1913.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.
		£	£			
1909 ..	303,537	46,054	83,416	From the 14th of August, 1908, 5*s.* the Imperial gallon or part thereof not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of 1*d.* for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 4·73 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1910 ..	413,791	59,281	111,930	As above	The value of spirit imports amounted to 5·09 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1911 ..	457,911	78,144	120,736	As above	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·01 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1912 ..	626,061	89,590	160,543	As above till the 4th of March, 1912. From that date 5*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty, 4*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·29 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	288,022
1913 ..	632,087	90,729	173,565	As above till the 9th of June, 1913. From that date 6*s.* 3*d.* the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1½d. per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty, 5*s.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 5·18 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	275,464

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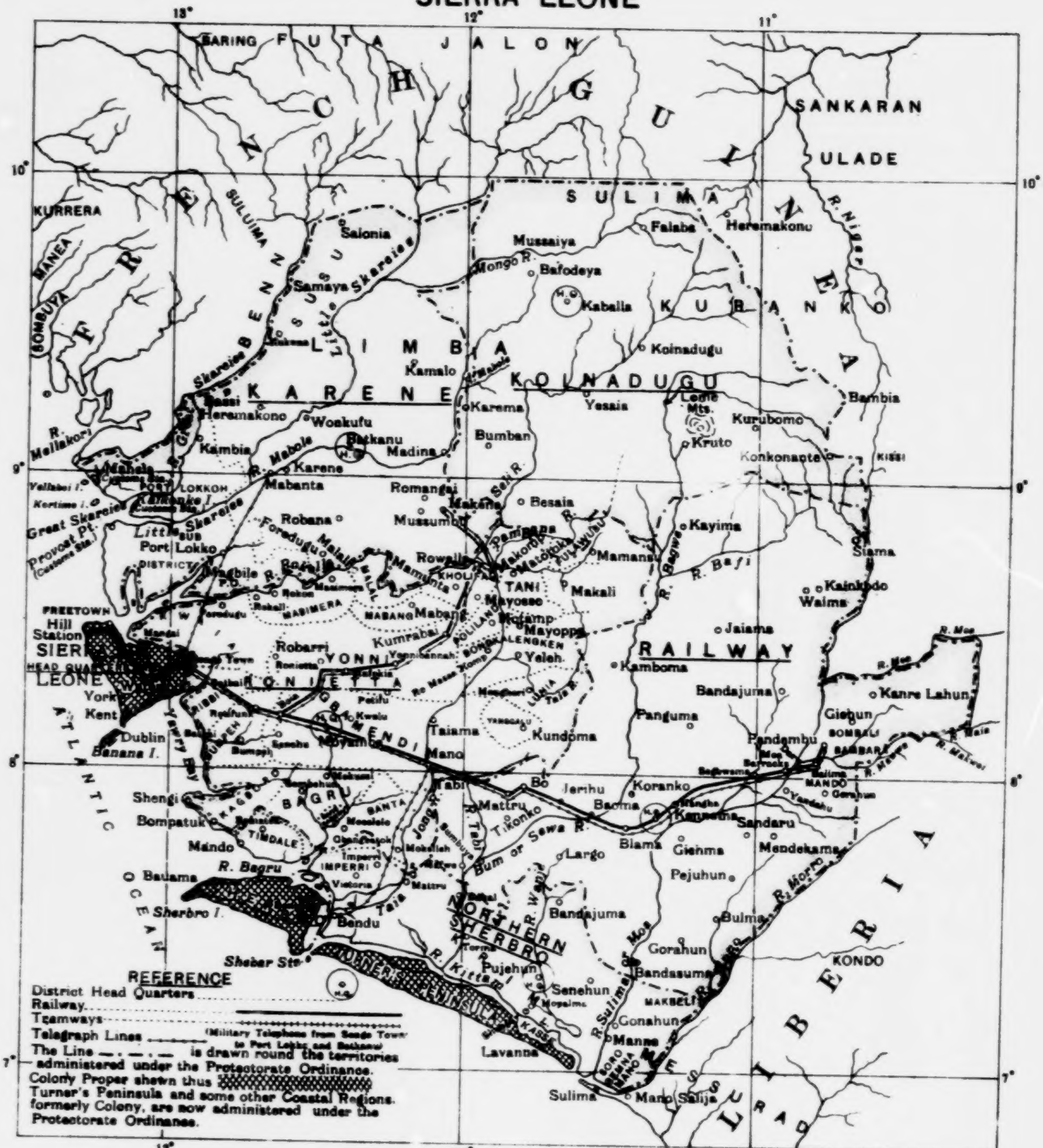
* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

SKETCH MAP OF
SIERRA LEONE


13°
12°
11°
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FRENCH GUINEA
FUTA JALON
SANKARAN
ULADE
KURRERA
SULIMA
LIMBA
KARENE
KOINADUGU
KURANKO
SUSU
BENNA
Falaba
Heremakono
R. Niger
Salonia
Mussaiya
Bafodeya
Mongo R.
Samaya
Kabaila
Koinadugu
Kamalo
Karema
Yesaia
Loma Mts.
Bambia
Kurubomo
Kruto
Konkonante
KISSI
Bassi
Heremakono
Woakufu
Batkanu
Kambia
Madina
Bumban
R. Mellakori
Mahela
Karene
Mabanta
Yallaboi I.
Kortimo I.
PORT LOKKOH
Great Skarcies
Little Skarcies
Provost Pt.
Port Lokko
DISTRICT
Robana
Romangai
Makene
Besaia
Mussumbo
Pampana R.
Rowalla
Foredugu
Mamansu
Kayima
Magbile
Rokon
MASIMERA
Mabang
Mayosso
Makali
TANI
KHOLIFA
R. Bagwe
R. Bafi
Kainkordo
Walma
Siama
FREETOWN
Hill Station
SIERRA LEONE
HEAD QUARTERS
Robarri
YONNI
Kumrabai
Mayoppa
Yeleh
Jaiama
RAILWAY
Kamboma
R. Moa
Kanre Lahun
Bandajuma
York
Kent
Dublin
Banana I.
Yawry Bay
RIBBI
KOYEH
Bumpeh
MENDI
Moyamba
Mano
Taiama
Kundoma
Panguma
Giehun
Pendembu
SOMBALI
Koranko
Jarihu
Bo
Baoma
Kennema
Sandaru
Mendekama
Blama
Giehma
Pejuhun
Shengi
Bompatuk
KAGBORO
BAGRU
TIMDALE
Mando
R. Bagru
IMPERRI
Mattru
Tikonko
Bum or Sewa R.
Largo
Bauama
Sherbro I.
Victoria
Bendu
NORTHERN SHERBRO
Bandajuma
Bulma
R. Morro
LIBERIA
KONDO
Shebar Str.
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
Pujehun
Senehun
Gorahun
Bandasuma
MAKBELE
Gonahun
R. Sulima
Manna
Lavanna
KASSE
Sulima
Mano Salija
GALLINAS
SOLURAD
ATLANTIC OCEAN
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
H.Q.
Railway
Tramways
Telegraph Lines
(Military Telephone from Songo Town to Port Lokko and Batkanu)
The Line — . — . — is drawn round the territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.
Colony Proper shewn thus ▨
Turner's Peninsula and some other Coastal Regions, formerly Colony, are now administered under the Protectorate Ordinance.

C.O., No. 29.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
775	Colonial Survey Committee	1912–1913
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
777	Swaziland	"
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	"
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"
805	Gambia	"
806	Gold Coast	"
807	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oils, oilseeds, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 851.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 808.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1915.

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No. 851.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 808.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
29th June, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1914, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. E. Evelyn, I.S.O.

I have, &c.,
A. C. HOLLIS,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

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I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1914 was £675,689, and exceeded that for 1913 by £57,306. A sum of £178,936 which was included in the revenue for 1914 was, however, a reimbursement from loan, being advances made from surplus balances for carrying out works chargeable to the loan authorized by the Public Loan Ordinance of 1913. If this sum is not included the actual revenue obtained in 1914 was £496,752, which shows a decrease of £121,631 as compared with 1913. The decline in the revenue was caused by a depression in trade prior to the war and by the partial stoppage of imports and exports and the falling off of traffic on the railway after the outbreak of hostilities.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of revenue, as compared with the preceding year.

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1913.			Revenue for 1914.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	317,463	2	3	199,455	11	4	—			118,007	10	11
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse dues ..	6,937	11	3	6,502	1	9	—			435	9	6
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	79,745	0	1	87,504	7	7	7,759	7	6	—		
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ..	17,853	2	6	15,566	10	5	—			2,286	12	1
Post Office and Savings Bank ..	14,486	17	10	9,782	1	3	—			4,704	16	7
Rents on Government Property ..	416	18	1	402	3	8	—			14	14	5
Interest	12,323	15	9	24,910	7	3	12,586	11	6	—		
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,820	19	4	2,293	8	11	472	9	7	—		
Sierra Leone Government Railway ..	167,304	0	0	150,058	0	6	—			17,245	19	6
Land Sales	31	10	0	277	17	0	246	7	0	—		
Reimbursement from Loan	—			178,936	4	6	178,936	4	6	—		
Total .. £	618,382	17	1	675,688	14	2	200,001	0	1	142,695	3	0
				Net Increase £			57,305	17	1			

The total revenue for the five years 1910 to 1914 was as follows:—

Year.	£
1910	424,215
1911	457,759
1912	559,855
1913	618,383
1914	675,689

Expenditure.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure, as compared with the preceding year :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1913.			Expenditure for 1914.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d
Charge on account of Public Debt ..	61,573	17	0	102,087	3	11	40,513	6	11	—		
Pensions	8,228	8	10	9,960	5	0	1,731	16	2	—		
Governor and Legislature	6,442	12	3	5,948	12	0	—			494	0	3
Colonial Secretary's Department ..	8,189	16	10	9,711	14	5	1,521	17	7	—		
Provincial Administration	33,877	2	8	34,101	4	2	224	1	6	—		
Treasury	4,813	1	0	5,306	3	5	493	2	5	—		
Customs Department	14,682	12	6	14,961	7	1	278	14	7	—		
Audit Department ..	3,050	16	0	2,958	2	2	—			92	13	10
Port and Marine Department	3,288	10	5	1,940	16	8	—			1,347	13	9
Legal Departments ..	11,669	18	5	10,780	3	11	—			889	14	6
Civil Police	10,082	9	0	10,887	5	5	804	16	5	—		
Prisons	8,632	19	8	9,772	1	11	1,139	2	3	—		
Medical Department..	30,047	10	9	29,832	0	4	—			215	10	5
Sanitary Department	8,950	13	10	9,189	1	2	238	7	4	—		
Education	13,295	16	5	13,741	6	0	445	9	7	—		
Post Office	12,124	0	3	12,046	9	0	—			77	11	3
West African Frontier Force	40,638	1	6	31,275	18	4	—			9,362	3	2
Sierra Leone Government Railway ..	146,060	2	5	194,807	12	5	48,747	10	0	—		
Agricultural Department	2,841	14	7	3,998	16	5	1,157	1	10	—		
Forestry Department	3,584	9	9	4,722	12	5	1,138	2	8	—		
Miscellaneous Services	23,913	11	2	29,644	2	8	5,730	11	6	—		
Protectorate Roads Department ..	7,558	6	9	12,586	15	0	5,028	8	3	—		
Public Works Department	13,621	13	5	20,030	8	10	6,408	15	5	—		
Public Works Recurrent	18,897	0	4	23,862	13	0	4,965	12	8	—		
Public Works Extraordinary.. ..	58,856	9	4	59,530	8	4	673	19	0	—		
Public Works (Special)	11,632	19	9	—			—			11,632	19	9
Survey of the Colony and Protectorate ..	228	7	6	2,802	9	6	2,574	2	0	—		
Freetown Water Works	6,656	16	1	12,107	14	10	5,450	18	9	—		
Railway Construction	48,999	7	6	—			—			48,999	7	6
Survey of Freetown ..	—			1,082	5	0	1,082	5	0	—		
Railway Surveys ..	—			470	4	8	470	4	8	—		
Total .. £	622,439	5	11	680,145	18	0	130,818	6	6	73,111	14	5
				Net Increase..			57,706	12	1			

The total expenditure for the years 1910 to 1914 was as follows :—

Year.	£
1910	361,222
1911	432,448
1912	524,417
1913	622,439
1914	680,146

The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £4,457.

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings chargeable to loan funds amounted to £91,424. Of this sum £67,898 was spent on the railway extension and £23,526 on the improvement of the Freetown jetties.

In addition to the expenditure detailed above, the sum of £494,565 has been utilized out of the proceeds of the loan issued on the 30th of December, 1913, for redeeming the outstanding bonds of the 1904 loan, as provided in the Public Loan Ordinance, 1913.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 issued in 1913 amounted to £942,827, while the total expenditure incurred, as authorized by the Ordinance, amounted to £764,926.

At the end of the year there was, accordingly, a balance of £177,901 for carrying out works sanctioned by the Ordinance.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £271,003, of which £149,961 is invested in securities, and £19,099 is in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies at interest, while £90,497 represents the value of unallocated stores in the Departments of the Railway, Public Works, and Railway Extension. Various payments in connection with the storage of food for the civil population and for the Togoland and Cameroons expeditionary forces are included as assets in the category of advances.

In addition to the excess of assets, indicated above, the sum of £18,765 has been charged against revenue for the extension of the Freetown water supply, the cost of which will ultimately be treated as a loan to the City Council of Freetown.

Deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank were over-invested to the extent of £2,671. This is due to heavy withdrawals after the outbreak of war and to the inadvisability of realizing securities, owing to depreciation.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,730,648, which is made up as follows :—

	£
4 per cent. Ten-year Convertible Bonds	800
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929–1954	729,848
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock 1938–1963	1,000,000
Total	£1,730,648

The liability in respect of the public debt was increased by £883,872 by the issue of the 4 per cent. stock, but it was correspondingly reduced by £448,900 by the redemption of the 4 per cent. debentures, so that the net addition to the liability of the Colony during the year was £434,972.

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st of December, 1914, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
4 per cent. Bonds	798	14	5
3½ per cent. Stock	61,244	5	3
	£62,042	19	8

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, after allowing for these amounts, is £1,668,605 0*s*. 4*d*.

Currency.

In addition to the Imperial coinage and the West African coinage, the five-franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland are legal tender in Sierra Leone, the value of each being 3*s*. 10½*d*. sterling.

General.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1914, amounted to £3,853. The revenue collected during the year from this source amounted to £2,756, making a total of £6,609.

The expenditure on various works and improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected, amounted to £3,027, leaving a balance on the 31st of December of £3,582.

The Protectorate house tax collected during the year amounted to £63,596, as compared with £60,314 in 1913.

A scheme for granting pensions to the widows and orphans of deceased European public officers was brought into operation on the 1st of January, 1914, and at the close of the year 139 officers had been registered as contributors.

Contributions and capital payments received during the year amounted to £3,174, which is included in the general revenue of the Colony.

At the end of the year the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund amounted to £2,672, of which £2,185 has been invested.

Freetown Municipality.

The revenue of the Municipality during the financial year commencing on the 1st of November, 1913, and ending on the 31st of October, 1914, amounted to £10,553, while the expenditure during the same period was £9,065.

The following table shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Municipality for the five years 1910 to 1914 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1910	11,313	11,035
1911	12,070	11,172
1912	11,948	11,322
1913	12,414	9,851
1914	10,553	9,065

The municipality has a debt of £31,008 2*s*. 11*d*. advanced to it by the Government. Of this sum £27,948 2*s*. 11*d*. is in respect of the Freetown Waterworks, £2,500 a cemetery loan, and £560 the balance of a loan of £1,400 in aid of revenue, repayable in annual instalments of £280.

Towards the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the loan of £2,500 a sum of £597 9*s*. 1*d*. has been accumulated.

The sum of £279 9*s*. 8*d*. is paid annually to the Colonial Government as the proportion of the General Loan Sinking Fund contribution in respect of the Waterworks Loan. Seven annual contributions have been made, amounting in all to £1,956 7*s*. 8*d*.

The Port of Sherbro Fund.

The balance to the credit of this fund on the 1st of January, 1914, was £952. The receipts, including an annual contribution of £300 from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund, amounted to £803, which makes a total of £1,755. The expenditure amounted to £1,222, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £533.

Funds are thus available for carrying out improvements in the town of Bonthe and other places within the limits of the Port of Sherbro.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year 1914, after the deduction of drawbacks and refunds, amounted to £206,307, which falls below the corresponding return for 1913 by £119,726.

Both Freetown and the Port of Sherbro shared in this depression. The gross revenue derived from import duties in the former amounted to £152,570, and in the latter to £41,777, as compared with £234,569 and £78,238, respectively, in the preceding year.

The decrease of customs revenue is explained in some detail in the following table, which gives the gross amount of customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import, in comparison with the figures for 1913 :—

Articles.	Years ended 31st December.		Increase or decrease in 1914 compared with 1913.	
	1913.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, Beer, and Porter	2,476	2,148	—	328
Cottons	39,348	27,811	—	11,537
Hats and Caps	1,734	1,249	—	485
Hardware	1,133	599	—	534
Metal Manufactures (other than those mentioned above) ..	3,435	2,035	—	1,400
Oil (Kerosene)	12,987	12,161	—	826
Provisions*	1,502	—	—	1,502
Salt*	1,469	—	—	1,469
Perfumery	1,421	955	—	466
Spirits	167,491	89,676	—	77,815
Sugar*	2,935	—	—	2,935
Tobacco, Manufactured ..	5,397	2,370	—	3,027
Tobacco, Unmanufactured ..	49,267	42,240	—	7,027
Wines	3,599	2,233	—	1,366
Woollens..	2,533	2,231	—	302
Other minor imports	19,015	12,387		6,628
Aggregate receipts	£315,742	£198,095	—	£117,647

Total net decrease £117,647

The total shortage in customs receipts amounted to £21,457 during the period before the war and to £96,190 during the war period.

The decrease of £77,815 in respect of spirits is due chiefly to a falling off of the imports from Holland and Germany, which had not, up to the end of the year, been made good by importations from other sources.

Imports.

The total values of the imports for the five years 1910–1914 are as follows :—

Year.	£
1910	1,162,470
1911	1,267,231
1912	1,424,864
1913	1,750,303
1914	1,405,049

Government imports again showed a marked increase, amounting in value to £196,770, as compared with £146,053 in the preceding year, and representing 14·01 per cent. of the total imports, as against 8·34 per cent. in 1913. This increase is due to larger consignments of materials for various public works which were under construction in 1914.

---

* Exempted from duty in August 1913.

The statistics given in Appendix A, analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony, show a large decrease in the value and quantity of spirits imported. This decrease is almost entirely covered by the shrinkage of spirits imported from Holland and Germany.

The importation of specie amounted to £238,648, as compared with £312,268 in 1913, but, as pointed out in previous reports, owing to the fact that the Freetown branch of the Bank of British West Africa is a distributing centre for practically the whole of West Africa, any decrease or increase in the importation of specie cannot be regarded as having any reliable bearing upon the economic condition of the Colony.

During the period before the war the total imports amounted in value to £969,564 and during the war period to £435,485, as compared with £992,946 and £757,357 for similar periods in 1913. The decline was, as might have been expected, greater during the war period.

Exports.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1910–1914 :—

Year.	£
1910	1,249,367
1911	1,300,238
1912	1,540,754
1913	1,731,252
1914	1,250,478

Of the return for 1914, £933,338 is represented by the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone, as against £1,376,603 in 1913, showing a decrease in this respect of £443,265.

Specie was exported during the year to the value of £208,571, showing a decrease of £32,393 as compared with the return for the previous year.

The total value of exports during the period prior to the outbreak of war was £806,002, and in the war period £444,476, as compared with £942,532 and £788,720 for similar periods in 1913.

SIERRA LEONE PRODUCTS.

Palm Products.

(*a*) *Palm Kernels.* The exports during 1914 show a falling off in volume of 13,286 tons and in value of £361,630. The total quantity exported amounted to £35,915 tons and was valued at £559,313.

This shortage cannot be wholly ascribed to the war. During the seven months ending on the 31st of July the shipments were 2,612 tons less than those during a similar period in 1913, and the shrinkage in value was £46,319.

The contraction during the earlier part of the year was due to the reduction of prices in the European market and a consequent disinclination of the natives to part with their kernels at reduced rates.

Upon the outbreak of war in August, there was a temporary dislocation in the kernel trade, but from September onwards there was a steady acceleration in the monthly output, which culminated in December.

(*b*) *Palm Oil.* Although prices were high during the first seven months of the year, the quantity of this commodity exported during that period was 95,077 gallons less than during a similar period of 1913.

In August shipments were considerably decreased, and, although the trade recovered somewhat towards the end of the year, in comparison with the figures of the period from August to December, 1913, there was a reduction of 85,868 gallons, making a total decrease for the year of 180,945 gallons, valued at £18,122. The total quantity of palm oil exported during the whole year was 436,144 gallons, valued at £38,537.

In addition to a fall in price after the outbreak of war, the partial failure of the first rice crop, alluded to below, and the attention which was in some districts diverted to the production of a second crop, both had a depressing effect upon the production of palm oil.

Of the total quantity exported during the year, 349,957 gallons were shipped to the United Kingdom and 54,161 gallons to Germany, as compared with 509,688 gallons to the United Kingdom and 69,786 gallons to Germany in the preceding year.

254,651 gallons were exported from Sherbro and 181,493 gallons from Freetown, as against 397,881 gallons from Sherbro and 219,208 gallons from Freetown in 1913. That Sherbro bore so disproportionate a share in the decline is, apparently, due to the disinclination of the Sherbro natives to gather produce at reduced rates of remuneration. In the island of Sherbro alone only one quarter of the usual supply of oil was produced.

Kola Nuts. The export of kola nuts during 1914 showed an increase in quantity of 60 tons and a decrease in value of £48,804. The total quantity exported was 1,925 tons, valued at £279,199.

The trade in kola nuts is almost entirely directed towards Senegal, Gambia, Rufisque, and Bissao, all of which places are deeply interested in the export to Marseilles of another produce, viz., ground nuts. Since the outbreak of war the ground nut trade suffered considerably through falling prices, difficulty of transport, and other causes, with the result that the purchasing power of the natives of Senegal and the adjacent countries became so much impaired that they could no longer pay the old rates for kola nuts.

Piassava. The exports of this commodity reached 983 tons, valued at £19,492, as compared with 839 tons, valued at £12,280, in 1913. The increase in the quantity of fibre shipped is due to the extraordinary prices quoted in the home market, the average price during the preceding year being £23 a ton, while in December, 1914, the price offered was £59 a ton, but it is all the more remarkable in view of the closing of the German market on the outbreak of war. In the year under review 546 tons were sent to the United Kingdom and 437 tons to Germany, as against 302 tons to the United Kingdom and 537 tons to Germany in 1913. The whole of the increase in 1914 occurred during the war period.

The piassava trade is almost entirely carried on in the Sherbro and Northern Sherbro Districts.

The increase in the value of piassava in the English market was due, on the one hand, to a decline in the supply, owing to lack of freights after the outbreak of war, and on the other hand to an increased demand for Army brooms and the transfer of American patronage from the German to the English market. These causes would appear to indicate that the rise in price is temporary. At the same time it is worth observing that a use has been found for piassava pulp, which has hitherto been regarded as waste product. It is estimated that this commodity will fetch from £6 to £8 per ton on the European market as a coir substitute. If it is found profitable to export the pulp at these rates, the piassava trade is likely to be permanently benefited.

Ginger. The quantity of exported ginger again showed a decline, 1,213 tons, valued at £15,639, being shipped, as compared with 2,048 tons, valued at £35,468, in 1913.

The further decrease in the output of this commodity was again due to a depression in prices in the home market. In 1910 the average price per cwt. was 41*s.*, and it has fallen steadily until 1914, when an average price of only 16*s.* per cwt. was paid.

There is plenty of ginger in the Colony, but it will not be unearthed until better prices are again offered. The root is not destroyed if left in the ground for one or even two years, so that, when prices are low, the native believes it to be to his advantage to wait for higher quotations.

1,211 tons were shipped in the period before the war and 2 tons during the war period. The trade is almost entirely with the United Kingdom.

Rice. As a result of delays and irregularities in the rainfall during the year, only a very moderate crop of rice was harvested. The quantity exported amounted to 18,705 bushels, as compared with 21,546 bushels in the preceding year. The value, however, increased from £3,990 to £4,855, owing to the decrease in the supply.

The trade in rice is practically confined to West African countries, the natives of which prefer African rice to other varieties.

Hides. The number of hides exported is returned as 10,561, this being 772 more than in 1913. The increase is due to the development of the local butchery business, to an exceptional demand for meat by vessels calling at the port of Freetown during the later months of the year, and to a rise in price.

Gum Copal. 16 tons of this commodity were exported, as against 24 tons in 1913. The value was £3,075, as compared with £2,682 in the preceding year. The decrease in the quantity exported is due directly to the operation of a local Order in Council prohibiting for five years from the 30th of September last the exportation of this product.

The whole quantity exported was again shipped to the United Kingdom.

Rubber. Only 3 tons were exported, as compared with 6 tons in 1913. For some years past the export of this commodity has been on the downward grade. The average price during 1914 was the lowest for the last five years, being only 1*s.* 3½*d.* a lb. The prices at present offered are not sufficient to encourage enterprise in this industry.

General Features of Trade.

The chief interest in the decline in the imports, exports, and revenue derived from customs duty is that it illustrates how dependent for its prosperity is a tropical country upon the prices obtainable in the European market for its products. That the depression in trade was not primarily due to the outbreak of war and its dislocating effects is proved by the fact that the general decline set in early in the year.

While admitting that in the case of certain commodities, such as rice and gum copal, local causes were at work to cause the decrease in the quantity exported, by far the most important reason for the decline was the fall in the prices paid in Europe for certain of the products of the Colony. As has been stated, the decline in the output of rubber, ginger, and particularly of palm kernels, was due to this cause.

The case of kola nuts is interesting as showing how the prices obtainable in Europe for a product of one tropical country may affect the output by another country of an entirely different product.

The decline in the value of exports reacted upon the purchasing power of the Colony and led to a decrease in the imports. This in its turn naturally affected the import duties.

Coming on the top of a trade depression, the war operated as an aggravating factor, though its effect has for several reasons not been so pronounced as might have been anticipated. The chief way in which it affected the Colony was by closing the German markets. As, in 1913, Germany was responsible for 47·49 per cent. of the export trade and for only 9·95 per cent. of the imports, the exports were naturally more seriously impaired than the imports.

At the beginning of the war some anxiety was felt regarding the effect which the closing of the German markets would have upon the valuable palm kernel trade. Formerly Hamburg absorbed 87 per cent. of the kernels exported from the Colony, and it was evident that the existing British kernel-crushing mills would not suffice to cope with the enormous quantity of kernels diverted to the Liverpool market. Machinery is, however, now being erected in England, and efforts are being made to absorb the kernels which were previously carried to German mills. From the point of view of the Colony these efforts are most encouraging, as they provide at any rate a temporary market for its most valuable commodity, but it remains to be seen whether after the expiration of the war, when trade may be expected to resume once more, as far as possible, its normal conditions, the market will not return to Germany.

In the exceptional year under review, in which, owing to the war and to other causes, the trade of the Colony was suffering a depression, it is gratifying to observe that, although the aggregate trade with the United Kingdom showed a slight falling off in value, amounting to £1,347,757, as against £1,368,774 in the preceding year, the value of exports to the United Kingdom showed an actual increase and the proportion of the trade with the United Kingdom to the total trade of the Colony advanced from 39·31 per cent. to 50·75 per cent.

The United Kingdom was responsible for 69·73 per cent. of the import trade and 29·43 per cent. of the export trade, as compared with 65·06 per cent. and 13·29 per cent. in 1913, while Germany's proportion decreased in the case of imports from 9·95 per cent. to 7·01 per cent., and in the case of exports from 47·49 per cent. to 25·04 per cent.

After the trade with the United Kingdom and Germany that with other British West African possessions came next in importance. The trade with the United States of America continued to increase.

Shipping.

1,788 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,780,118 tons, were entered and cleared, as compared with 1,989 ships, aggregating 2,931,085 tons, the year before. These returns include 260 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,763 tons, entered, and 259, of an aggregate tonnage of 4,330 tons, cleared. The corresponding figures for 1913 were :—Sailing vessels, entered, 291 ; aggregate tonnage, 3,405 tons. Sailing vessels cleared, 292 ; aggregate tonnage, 3,417 tons.

An increase of 59,601 tons in the tonnage of British vessels which entered during the year, and a decrease of 61 in the number, shows a strong tendency on the part of shipowners to employ larger vessels in the West African trade.

There was also an increase in the number of foreign sailing vessels entered, which points to an increase in the native trade from neighbouring countries.

The following table gives the number and tonnage of steam vessels (distinguishing nationality) entered during 1913 and 1914, respectively, together with the proportion per cent. contributed to the total tonnage by the ships of each nation.

Nationality.	Steam vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.		Percentage proportion to total tonnage entered.	
	1913.		1914.						1913.	1914.
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.		
Belgian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British	476	1,024,869	482	1,084,385	6	59,516	—	—	70·19	77·93
Danish	5	4,661	7	6,786	2	2,125	—	—	·32	·49
Dutch	3	887	—	—	—	—	3	887	·06	—
French	14	8,266	13	7,150	—	—	1	1,116	·57	·51
German	191	406,811	121	274,488	—	—	70	132,323	27·86	19·73
Greek	5	6,773	3	3,729	—	—	2	3,044	·46	·27
Italian	—1	2,221	1	2,221	—	—	—	—	·15	·16
Norwegian ..	5	2,253	7	7,118	2	4,865	—	—	·15	·51
Spanish	2	3,456	4	5,568	2	2,112	—	—	·24	·40
Total	702	1,460,197	638	1,391,445	12	68,618	76	137,370	100·00	100·00

The above table shows that British and German tonnage accounted together for 97·7 per cent. of the total tonnage. A striking increase is, however, noticeable in the percentage of British tonnage while a corresponding decrease has occurred in the percentage from Germany. This alteration in the percentages is, of course, due to the cessation of German commerce from August onwards.

The total tonnage in the period before the war, compared with the similar figures for 1913, showed an increase of 164,174 tons, but a shrinkage occurred during the war period of 229,048 tons.

The main causes of the contraction are the withdrawal from the trade of all ships of German nationality, and the want of a market for palm produce during the early months of the war. Uncertainty as to safety of transit and, for a time, high insurance rates also in some measure contributed to the decline.

The subjoined table, which gives a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the years 1910 to 1914, does not appear to call for any remarks or explanations :—

Year.	Inward.		Outward.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1910	892	996,403	943	997,887
1911	858	1,248,455	879	1,244,984
1912	1,063	1,336,120	1,077	1,340,350
1913	993	1,463,602	996	1,467,483
1914	898	1,398,708	890	1,381,410

Agriculture.

The headquarters of the Agricultural Department are at Jala, a village six miles north of Mano, in the Ronietta District of the Protectorate. The Experimental Farm covers a total area of about 1,200 acres, and is divided into two parts by the Taia River. On the North Farm plantations of coffee, kola, and cocoa have been made, and on the South Farm trials have been conducted of various other agricultural products, with the purpose of evolving a suitable rotation of crops and introducing improved varieties of foodstuffs.

Rice. (a) *Native rice.* The rices of this country may be divided into hill and swamp rice, but certain varieties are grown by the natives in both habitats. Different results are thus sometimes produced from the same species of seed.

In cultivating hill rice, the bush is cut down about February, and, having been allowed to dry for some weeks, is then fired. The large timbers are collected and burnt. About June, when the rains have well started, the rice is sown broadcast and hoed in with a short hoe. It begins to flower about September and is generally ready to harvest in October or November. In harvesting, the ears are cut with a knife, tied into bundles, and dried on the stumps left standing in the ground. When dried, the rice is laid on the floor of the farm-house and the grains are threshed off the ears by the labourers treading on the bundles with a sort of circular motion. In other parts of the country the grains are pulled off the heads by hand or beaten with sticks ; the rice is finally winnowed by means of a fan.

Swamp rice is grown on the banks of tidal rivers, at river mouths, and in swamps formed in the interior of the country by water accumulating in the valleys. In some parts of the country the rice is transplanted from nursery beds when about a fortnight old.

Several varieties of native rice were planted on the experimental farm in 1914. Experiments tended to show that a bushel is the best quantity to sow per acre. At present the natives sow their farms too thinly to obtain the most advantageous results and no attempts are made by them to restore the fertility of the ground, as is done in India and the East, by digging in organic matter, green manuring, and fallowing. Having harvested, the farmer usually seeks another piece of ground upon which to conduct his operations next year. He allows the previous area to revert to bush for periods varying up to about seven years, before returning to it. There is no doubt that fertility is accumulated during this period of rest, but it has been proved that, with a definite rotation of crops, coupled with deep hoeing during the dry season, it would be possible to grow crops for three or four years in succession on the same piece of land.

The native is, however, unwilling to work on his farm more than he can help and he accordingly prefers to make use of the secondary bush which is at his disposal. There do not appear to be any economic objections to the continuation of this practice so long as there is secondary bush which could not otherwise be utilized.

(b) *Indian rice.* A larger area at the experimental farm was sown with Indian rice than in 1913, and experiments were initiated at Mambolo, on the Great Scarcies River. Some species gave a good yield, but, as the Indian varieties are not appreciated by the natives of West Africa, their introduction would probably not be economically justified.

Ground nuts. Except in the Karene District, the ground nut crop was a failure, owing to bad germination and the outbreak of a fungoid disease identified at Kew as *Cercospora personata.* The Koinadugu District was most severely affected, as ground nuts form one of the main crops upon which the livelihood of its inhabitants depends.

Ginger. This crop is chiefly grown in the Ronietta and Railway Districts, Mano being one of the principal centres. The quality of Sierra Leone ginger is poor as compared with that of the East. Being planted chiefly upon laterite gravel, the rhizomes are unable to grow to a large size, and the native manner of preparing the produce for market is very crude. The poor price obtainable, owing to its inferior quality, has led in recent years to a decrease in the area under this crop.

Experiments in ginger have proved that the yield can be increased by deep hoeing and that the native method of planting is wasteful. If the ginger be sown in lines, not only is there a greater saving of seed, but a higher yield per lb. of seed sown is obtained. It has also been proved that the native practice, alluded to above, of leaving the ginger in the ground for two years before harvesting is disadvantageous.

Yams. A yield of 6 tons 3 cwt. per acre was obtained at the Experimental Farm in 1914.

Yams are not grown in this country to such an extent as on the Gold Coast, where they form one of the staple foods. They are, however, very largely cultivated by the Sierra Leoneans in the Colony (the Colony being here distinguished from the Protectorate).

Maize. Four plots of Lagos maize were sown in 1914, the highest yield being 582 lbs. per acre. It is probable that South African varieties will be found to thrive in the northern portion of the Protectorate, where the climate is drier than in other localities.

Cocoa. There was a considerable increase of cocoa-growing in the Northern Sherbro District. Provided the soil is deep and the plants properly cared for, a good crop can be produced. Very little permanent shade, and in many cases no shade at all, seems required, if there are good protective belts of trees around the plantation to serve as a shield against the wind.

Experiments have shown that the plants are improved by deep-hoeing the plantation every dry season.

Limes. The lime plantation at Jala is now two years old. The trees, which have grown exceedingly well, compare very favourably with three-year-old plants in the West Indies. It is believed that, if properly organized, the production of limes could be made a lucrative occupation in this Colony.

Leguminous Crops. Cow Pea (*Vigna catjang*), also known as "kroo beans," grows very well here. Owing to its rapid maturity a crop of "kroo beans" can be taken off a plot of rice which has been harvested early. It is useful for green-manuring purposes, but is little known among the natives of the Protectorate. The highest yield obtained was 456 lbs. per acre.

A large area was sown during the year with pigeon pea (*Phaseolus mungo*) for the purposes of green manuring and seed. Not only is it valuable for its nutritive qualities, but it also enriches the ground in which it is planted by accumulating nitrogenous food. It is a useful plant for checking weeds.

Agricultural shows were again held at Bonthe and Waterloo.

Summary of work done by the Imperial Institute on behalf of the Colony.

During 1914 reports were furnished by the Imperial Institute to the Government of Sierra Leone on the results of the investigation in the Scientific and Technical Research Department of seven samples of soil from the experimental farm at Jala. The samples included soils from cocoa and kola plantations, from plots on which rice and ground nuts had been grown, and from the bush land.

The soils were in most cases found to be deficient in lime and phosphoric acid, and recommendations were accordingly made as to suitable manurial treatment for improving them in these respects.

During 1914 a special Technical Information Bureau was formed a the Imperial Institute for the purpose of dealing with the steadily increasing stream of technical and commercial enquiries which have been received in recent years from manufacturers, merchants, and others in the United Kingdom and the Colonies. These enquiries relate principally to new sources of supply of raw materials, methods of utilizing new products from the Colonies and India, or to new or little known processes and machinery for industrial purposes.

On the outbreak of the war the number of such enquiries was largely increased, and the work of the Bureau in finding markets for Colonial products assumed very considerable importance. A number of products from British Colonies had been almost exclusively utilized in Germany, and, on the suspension of trade with that country, it was necessary in the interests of the local industries to find fresh markets for the materials. With this object in view the Technical Information Bureau issued a series of circulars and press notices, which were widely distributed, dealing with products of this class, and, as a result, satisfactory arrangements were made for the utilization in the United Kingdom of certain raw materials which had not previously been worked there to any extent.

Successful action of this kind has been taken with regard to palm kernels, which are the most important article of commerce in Sierra

Leone. As stated above, these kernels have hitherto been chiefly exported to Germany, and that they are now being treated on a large scale by oil-seed crushers in the United Kingdom is largely due to information on the subject provided by the Imperial Institute, to which the thanks of the Colony are due.

Sierra Leone is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a court containing exhibits illustrating the resources, products, and industries of the country. During 1914 the court was rearranged and several new exhibits were included.

Forestry.

The most important development during the year under review was the constitution of a forest reservation extending over an area of nearly 6,000 acres, and comprising the gum copal forests which are situated on the Kassewe Hills, some twenty-four miles north-east of Moyamba and six miles east of Yonnibanna. The trees have been greatly overtapped, but it is anticipated that a complete rest of five or more years will restore them to a healthy condition.

A commencement was made in the work of demarcating a reservation of a portion of the Kambui Hills, near Kennema.

The formation of forest reservations is of great importance as a factor calculated to counteract an increasing tendency on the part of the natives in their search for farm land to destroy the rain forest, upon which this Colony is chiefly dependent for its wealth.

Work continued to be carried on in the various nurseries and plantations, and altogether 180 specimens were added to the forest herbarium.

Game.

The following were reported shot by holders of licences during 1913:—

Elephant	6
Buffalo	14
Water-buck	5
Harnessed antelope	5
Duiker	6
Wart-hog	1
Kob	22
Hippopotamus	2
Bongo	2
Bush-buck..	6

The chief areas for game are in the Karene and Koinadugu Districts of the Protectorate

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed in 1914, among the more important of which were the following:—

The Aerial Navigation Ordinance, under which the Governor may regulate the navigation of aircraft.

The Foreign Marriage Ordinance, which reduces the period of residence necessary for the giving of notice of a marriage to one week.

The Copyright Ordinance which applies to the Colony and Protectorate provisions similar to those contained in Sections 11 and 12 of the Copyright Act, 1911.

The Quarantine Ordinance, which amends and consolidates the law relating to quarantine.

The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides for the establishment and regulation of prisons in the Protectorate.

The Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, which prescribes penalties for trading with the enemy.

The Trading with the Enemy Ordinance (No. 2), which sets up machinery for controlling the business of enemy firms.

By an Order in Council of the 21st September, 1914, the import duties on wines were raised.

In consequence of the war a number of Proclamations were issued, including provisions placing the forces in the Colony under the Army Act as if they were on actual military service, and others prohibiting the export of certain goods.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of:—

(*a*) Elementary Mission Schools;
(*b*) The Government Model School;
(*c*) The Industrial or Trade Schools;
(*d*) Secondary Schools;
(*e*) Government Mohammedan Elementary Schools:
(*f*) The Diocesan Technical School;
(*g*) Fourah Bay College (which is affiliated to the University of Durham).

The elementary schools derive their revenue from Government grants, school fees, society grants, and voluntary contributions.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony is 107, of which 102 are assisted by the Government.

The distribution of the elementary mission schools of the Colony among the several denominations is as follows :—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	46	3,275	2,221
Wesleyan Methodist	30	2,142	1,323
United Methodist..	13	730	451
Roman Catholic	7	606	441
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion ..	6	291	198
African Methodist Episcopal	2	167	110
United Brethren in Christ	2	143	88
Seventh Day Adventist	1	50	35
Total	107	7,404	4,867

Compared with the previous year, these figures show an increase of two in the number of schools and of 158 in the average attendance. There was, however, a decrease of 61 in the roll number.

The total income of the 102 assisted elementary schools, exclusive of Government grants, was £4,564, of which school fees amounted to £1,067. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,026.

The total expenditure was £5,835, as compared with £7,018 in the previous year.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, and hand and eye work are compulsory subjects in the assisted schools. The last-mentioned subject is, however, not allowed on the curriculum till teachers have obtained the necessary qualifications. In addition to the above subjects, a good deal of practical work has been introduced, which has had a marked effect on the tone and progress of the schools.

It is still premature to expect very great changes from the new system of education instituted in 1911, but, on the whole, instruction proceeds on more intelligent lines, and the wholesale use of mechanical methods is dying out even in the rural districts. In the urban schools a higher standard of intelligence has been reached and maintained. The children speak and write correct and simple English, and arithmetic is taught on a practical basis.

The work of the Government Model School, a higher grade elementary school, which was opened in January 1913, was interrupted owing to the building being required from the beginning of August to the end of the year as accommodation for interned enemy subjects, several hundreds of whom were collected in Freetown.

The total number of pupils was 219 and the average attendance 173.

The staff consisted of three Europeans and eleven native teachers. The school curriculum includes hand and eye work, hygiene and sanitation, singing, drill, and nature study; in connection with the last-mentioned subject there is a school museum.

There are two industrial schools in the Colony, one at Mobe, in the Northern Sherbro District, belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission and assisted by the Government, and the other at Waterloo, in the Headquarters District, owned by the Seventh Day Adventists and unassisted. The enrolment and average attendance at the Mobe School were 62 and 58 respectively. Instruction is given in definite trades, such as carpentry, smith's work, baking, farming, and elementary engineering. There is a great demand for boys trained in this school among the commercial firms at Bonthe, and it is justly popular among the Mendi and Sherbro peoples of the district, as it possesses no quality hostile to the organization and constitution of the tribe.

The Waterloo school deals almost entirely with "Creole" boys. The curriculum is drawn up on similar lines to that of the Mobe school, but literary subjects are also taught. This type of school is best adapted to the rural districts.

There are 13 secondary schools in the Colony, eight missionary and the remainder proprietary. These schools are the main sources of supply for the civil service and the professions. There are no Government grant-aided secondary schools.

There are five Mohammedan schools or madrasas for the education of Mohammedan boys and girls; the roll number was 659 and the average attendance 423, as compared with 685 and 398 in the previous year. Over a third of the children belong to the tribes of the Protectorate, and consist mainly of Mandingoes, Temnes, Susus, and Fulahs. The subjects taught are the same as in other assisted schools, with the addition of Arabic. The method of manual training has now been introduced, with advantageous results.

The Mohammedan community continued to show its appreciation of the advantages afforded by the Government; in the year under review the sum of £246 5*s*. 7*d*. was contributed to the school funds; this amount includes the purchase money of land for new buildings for Mohammedan schools.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School continued to give instruction in the sciences relating to the building trade, architecture, and surveying, including trigonometrical methods of mensuration. The practical nature of the training is of a valuable and useful kind, and the results more than justify the existence of this institution.

The total number of students on the roll during the year was 20.

The upkeep of the school involves an expenditure of about £500, which is met by private subscriptions, sale of work, and pupils' fees, and partly by a Government grant.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only University College in West Africa. The attendance during the year as compared with that of 1913 showed a slight decrease, the names of 25 students being on the roll at the end of the year. The number matriculated was 10.

Protectorate Schools.

There were at the end of the year 100 pupils on the roll of the school at Bo for the sons and nominees of chiefs, as compared with 94 at the end of 1913.

The school fees amounted to £760, while the total cost of maintaining the school was £2,926, the balance of £2,166 being met from general revenue.

An endeavour has been made to popularize the school by introducing a reduction of fees and by cancelling a regulation which forbade the employment of ex-pupils in Government service.

Fifty-four non-Government schools, with a total of 1,507 names on the rolls, were inspected and reported on. Of these 27 were found to be doing good work. Improvement was again most marked in the boarding schools, of which there were 15.

As a result of the inspections the sum of £544 was awarded by the Government as grants-in-aid, of which £334 went to the boarding schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

In 1914 the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 46,724 out-patients and 2,696 in-patients, making a total of 49,420, as compared with 31,536 in the preceding year.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,443 individuals were treated as in-patients and 9,174 as out-patients, as compared with 1,513 and 22,445, respectively, in the preceding year.

The decrease in the number of out-patients is due to the opening of a dispensary at Cline Town, at which there were during the year 10,505 attendances.

The number of operations performed was 271, which shows a decrease of 94 as compared with the figure for the preceding year. In addition to this number, 11 cases remained in hospital from 1913. Of the total of 282 operations thus arrived at 259 were successful, while 17 patients died. Six cases still remained under treatment on the last day of the year.

The decrease in the total number of operations performed during the year, like the decrease in the number of out-patients treated, was due to the establishment of the Cline Town Dispensary.

At the Lunatic Asylum at Kissy there was a total of 149 patients under treatment, of whom 32 were admitted during the year. This total shows a decrease of 9 as compared with 1913. Of the 149 patients under treatment, 18 were relieved and discharged, 1 absconded, and 13 died, leaving a total of 117 at the end of the year.

A number of male lunatics, who are lucid and physically fit, are employed in attending to the garden and in performing sanitary work. Female lunatics who are mentally and physically fit do the washing and mending of their clothes.

The discipline and health of the inmates were good throughout the year.

At the Female Incurable Hospital there were 29 patients at the beginning of the year, and 41 were admitted during the year; 28 patients were discharged and 16 deaths occurred. On the 31st of December 26 patients remained.

At the Male Incurable Hospital there were 70 patients at the beginning of the year. During the year, 97 were admitted, 64 were discharged as cured, and 53 died.

At the Leper Asylum there were 4 patients at the opening of the year and 2 were subsequently admitted. Of these 1 died and 4 absconded.

Only 4 cases of small-pox and 5 of chicken-pox were treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year. All the patients were cured.

European Nursing Home.

There were 75 admissions into this institution. Of these, 37 were officials and 38 belonged to the mercantile and shipping communities. 29 of the cases were malaria.

Savings Bank.

Owing to the outbreak of war there was a slight falling off in the business of the Post Office Savings Bank.

The deposits numbered 10,442 and amounted to £57,816, showing a decrease of 780 in number and of £5,417 in value as compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 7,463 and amounted to £60,901, showing a decrease of 178 and an increase of £4,032, respectively, in comparison with the figures for 1913.

The average value of each deposit was £5 10s. 9d. and of each withdrawal, £8 3s. 2d., as against £5 10s. 11d. and £7 8s. 10d. in the previous year.

1,625 accounts were opened during the year and 1,808 were closed, showing a net decrease of 183. At the end of the year the names of 6,476 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £112,019. The average value of each account was at the close of the year, £17 5s. 11d., as compared with £15 18s. 9d. in 1913.

The revenue derived from transferred accounts was £5 13s. 5d., as against £11 1s. 11d. in 1913. Investments amounting to £3,000 were made in the course of the year, bringing the total sum invested to £112,162.

The dividends received on investments amounted to £3,819, as compared with £3,466 in 1913. The profits of the Savings Bank rose from £483 to £1,141.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is employed only in the Colony, police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of court messengers under the administration of the District Commissioners.

At the end of the year under review the authorized strength of the police force consisted of a total of all ranks of 285, including three European officers, the Commissioner, and two Assistant Commissioners of Police. The discipline was again well maintained. The health of the force continued to be good.

1,747 cases were reported to the police. In 72 per cent. of these cases arrests were made. Of the persons arrested 75 per cent. were convicted, the remainder being discharged.

An increase occurred in the number of common assaults, while decreases are shown in the returns of drunkenness, larceny, and other offences.

The number of crimes of a serious nature is very small. There were during the year no cases of murder, and only one of manslaughter and five of wounding.

It is gratifying to record that the police force not only continued to perform its ordinary duties in a competent manner, but also proved itself equal to various additional burdens which it was found necessary to impose upon it owing to the war.

Fire Brigade.

There is in Freetown a voluntary fire brigade, which is under the control of the Municipality. In serious fires the military are always prepared to render assistance. Such a fire occurred in Freetown on the 9th of January, 1914, when seventy-three houses were burnt down and four lives lost.

There were ten accidental outbreaks of fire during the year, resulting in the destruction of property of the rateable value of £371.

Prisons.

The new buildings were completed and were appointed a prison as from the 11th of September.

The total number of prisoners received into Freetown prison in 1914 was 978, as compared with 1,053 in 1913. The decrease is due partly to a decline in the number of commitments from the Protectorate prisons and partly to the fact that a large number of labourers were sent out of the Colony for military purposes. The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 241, as against 276 in 1913.

On the 26th of January, 1914, a grading system was introduced by which long-sentence prisoners are divided into three classes. Prisoners in the lowest grade, are, as far as possible, kept in complete separation and those who have been certified as physically fit are employed in stone-breaking, while those in the middle and upper grades are employed in association in carpentry, cooking, and other work not of an irksome nature.

With the exception of an outbreak of dysentery in the early part of the rainy season, the health of the prisoners was satisfactory. There were 25 deaths from illness and 1 execution during the year.

Prisons in the Protectorate.

A step was taken during the year to place the prisons in the Protectorate on the same footing as those in the Colony. The buildings used as common gaols for the imprisonment of prisoners at Moyamba, Kennema, Batkanu, Kaballa, and Pujehun, and those used as temporary prisons at Gbangbama, Mano Salija, and Port Lokko were declared to be prisons within the meaning of the Prisons Consolidation Ordinance, 1906, and the power of the Governor to establish and close any prison in the Colony was extended to the Protectorate.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 74 convictions in that Court during the year, including 21 for larceny.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown 2,248 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 2,012 in 1913.

In the District Courts of the Colony, at Waterloo and Bonthe, there were 551 persons convicted summarily, as against 722 in the preceding year.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 60 convictions, as compared with 86 in 1913; of these 4 were for murder and 8 for manslaughter.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 695 convictions, as compared with 663 in the preceding year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European residents was 1,191:—

Officials	285
Military	603
Non-Officials	303
Total ..	1,191

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans due to climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate for the last ten years:—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1905 ..	3	—	2	2	1	—	8
1906 ..	3	—	2	1	1	1	8
1907 ..	2	—	3	3	2	3	13
1908 ..	1	—	1	6	3	2	13
1909 ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	6
1910 ..	—	—	9	2	2	2	15
1911 ..	2	5	2	1	—	1	11
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8

Three were amongst the military classified as follows:—1, inflammation of the liver; 1 blackwater fever; 1 malaria; and five were amongst the non-official and non-military population, classified as follows:—1 malaria; 1 peritonitis; 2 blackwater fever; 1 dysentery.

The average number of resident officials was 204. Of these, 137 were placed upon the sick list for a total period of 1,463 days, the average number of days upon the sick list for each patient being 10·67 and the daily average upon the sick list 4·00.

11 officials were invalided, as against 13 in the preceding year. The causes which led to the invaliding of the several officials were as follows:—Adenitis 1, ulcer of rectum 1, pulmonary tuberculosis 1,

hemiplegia 1, neurasthenia 2, malarial fever 2, enteric fever 1, ischiorectal abscess 1, nervous breakdown 1.

It is satisfactory to report that there were no deaths among officials during the year.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 74. Although the general health of the residents continued to be satisfactory, no less than 16 officials suffered from malarial fever.

Population of the Colony (as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony was returned at the last decennial census, in 1911, as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths recorded during 1914 was 1,637, or 22 per 1,000, and of births 1,327, or 18 per 1,000 of the population.

The population of Freetown according to the census of 1911 was 34,090; the births registered in 1914 numbered 666 and the deaths 997.

These figures show a birth-rate of 19 and a death-rate of 29 per 1,000 respectively. The excess of deaths over births is partly due to the fact that large numbers of men come up to Freetown from the Protectorate as labourers, leaving their families behind.

The chief causes of death in Freetown were in the order given below as follows:—

(1) Diseases of the digestive system. (2) Diseases of the respiratory system and diseases of the nervous system. (3) Malarial fever. (4) Premature births. (5) Debility. (6) Diseases of the circulatory system. (7) Tuberculosis.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last ten years are subjoined:—

1905	296
1906	242
1907	210
1908	222
1909	188
1910	214
1911	156
1912	195
1913	221
1914	234

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10, according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate :—

Mendis	442,524	Autocthonous and semi-autocthonous pagan groups.
Lokkos	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis)	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	
Foulahs	11,500	Northern invading and Mohammedanizing groups.
Mandingoes	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Timinis	347,229	
Limbahs	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
	1,323,151	

General.

Up to the 1st of January, 1914, registration of births and deaths was compulsory only in Freetown. On that date the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance came into force, providing for compulsory registration in the Colony, as opposed to the Protectorate, where registration is still optional.

Five new cases of sleeping sickness were discovered, four in Freetown and one at Moyamba.

Late in the year Professor Yorke and Dr. Blacklock, from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, commenced an investigation into this disease. It is unsafe with the present data to draw any conclusion whether it is on the increase in Sierra Leone.

Out of a total of 997 deaths for the year in Freetown 40 are returned as due to tuberculosis. The proportion obtained from these figures is about 1·17 per thousand living, at all ages.

Eleven cases of blackwater fever were reported, of which four were fatal.

One case of yellow fever was recorded in a European at Boia. The patient recovered.

The returns of malaria show that 2,460 cases were treated, as compared with 2,724 in 1913. Of these, no less than 1,027 cases occurred in Freetown.

Vaccination was carried on as usual both in the Colony and Protectorate. 6,032 persons were vaccinated, 4,323 (72 per cent.) with known success.

Both the Colony and Protectorate were singularly free from small-pox and no serious epidemic of any kind occurred during the year.

Sanitation.

The number of mosquito larvæ prosecutions in the Freetown Police Court was 746, as against 753 in 1913.

The pipe-borne water supply, of which Freetown has for some years been in possession, has resulted in the reduction of the stegomyia index to a low figure, but much still remains to be done in this respect. The condition of the earth trenches, which only partially serve to drain away the surface water and which themselves in some places retain for considerable periods the water they have collected, calls for the effective system of drainage which it is hoped to introduce at no very distant date. Unfortunately the survey preliminary to the reconstruction of streets and street drains and the regulation of water courses had to be abandoned, owing to the services of the officers engaged upon it being required in connexion with the war.

The work in connexion with the Brookfields drainage scheme, initiated in 1911, continued to be carried on, and will, it is anticipated, on its completion, effect a great improvement in the sanitation of the Brookfields area.

The buildings over a large area in the western district of Freetown were destroyed by fire early in the year. The opportunity was promptly taken to do a large amount of useful scavenging over the burnt area, particularly in the collection and disposal of incombustible rubbish.

Quarantine was declared against Dakar on account of plague on the 15th of May and withdrawn on the 13th of June. It was again declared on the 18th of July and was not withdrawn before the end of the year. Quarantine was also declared against Lagos for yellow fever on the 16th of February and withdrawn on the 9th of March.

The number of destroyed rats brought to the Colonial Hospital, and paid for at the rate of one penny each amounted to 1,750.

The gratuitous distribution of quinine in Freetown was again continued.

At Hill Station a commencement was made in planting suitable grass to keep down the rank vegetation which springs up for about seven months in the year. It is intended to continue this work vigorously in the future, as it is the only practicable method by which the expense of scavenging can be kept down while the area of the station is yearly extended.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary condition of their chiefdoms has appeared to merit recognition.

Climate.

The following table gives the mean maximum and mean minimum shade temperature and the total rainfall for each of the last ten years, as recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory, Freetown :—

Year.	*Mean maximum shade temperature.	*Mean minimum shade temperature.	Total rainfall.
			Inches.
1905	88·4	73·5	176·94
1906	88·3	73·6	170·92
1907	88·3	73·1	153·13
1908	87·9	72·8	142·89
1909	88·4	73·0	139·97
1910	88·5	73·5	133·44
1911	88·0	72·9	136·59
1912	88·8	73·4	130·07
1913	88·0	72·5	124·48
1914	88·3	70·3	102·34

*Mean for twelve months.

The rainfall was the smallest for the last 33 years. The record, however, at Hill Station, which is about 800 feet above sea level and about 620 feet higher than Tower Hill Observatory, showed a rainfall of 133·92 inches. No such marked disparity has been noted before between the records of the two places, which, as the crow flies, are only about 2½ miles apart. If there be no mistake in the figures, the much higher record of the more elevated station tends somewhat to relieve special anxiety as to the probable sufficiency of the mountain streams of the water-gathering grounds for water supply to the city.

The figures for 1914 in the above table are here carried a step further :—

Month.	Mean Air Temperature in shade.		Total Rainfall. Inches.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	
January	89·8	69·6	Nil
February	91·8	70·2	Nil
March	91·3	70·2	Nil
April	91·3	70·4	0·02
May	91·2	69·0	7·02
June	88·3	65·6	13·58
July	84·2	66·0	27·02
August	82·6	70·1	16·79
September	84·3	73·2	18·45
October	88·2	73·2	10·09
November	88·3	74·5	7·93
December	89·2	74·6	1·44

Besides having an abnormally small rainfall, the year 1914 is remarkable from a meteorological point of view in two other respects. August was not, as is usually the case, the wettest month, and the rains were prolonged off and on until the end of the year.

The prevailing direction of the wind is south-westerly. At the beginning and end of the rainy season tornadoes occur, but rarely do much damage.

The subjoined table gives the observations taken in 1914 at certain out-stations:—

Station.	Mean Air Temperature in shade.		Total Rainfall.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	
			Inches.
Batkanu	90·8	70·0	88·76
Bo	90·1	68·3	103·10
Bonthe	84·4	65·8	123·95
Daru	91·4	68·9	85·38
Kaballa	88·9	66·2	73·87
Kissy	86·2	64·8	99·75
Moyamba	90·6	57·4	77·19

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal business transacted during the year showed a steady increase until the outbreak of war. The restriction in trade, which followed, resulted in a falling off of business, especially in the Money Order branch.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 53. Savings bank business was transacted at 11 of these; money order business at 32, and postal order business at 42.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,838,706, as compared with 1,641,394 in 1913. This total was made up as follows :—

	Letters, Postcards, and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	444,388	8,788	18,424	1,784
Despatched to United Kingdom	232,939	21,998	1,914	151
Received from West African Colonies ..	140,390	15,489	7,760	16
Despatched to West African Colonies ..	186,675	10,813	2,613	14
Internal	688,722	39,526	16,302	—

The money order transactions numbered 10,325, and amounted to £131,807. A comparison with the figures of the previous year shows a decrease in the number of money order transactions of 1,947, representing the sum of £18,261.

Money Orders.	1913.		1914.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom	430	2,391	422	2,422
Despatched to United Kingdom	3,441	33,788	2,728	29,707
Received from West African Colonies ..	464	5,147	484	5,425
Despatched to West African Colonies ..	604	6,661	587	6,835
Internal	7,333	102,081	6,104	87,418
Total	12,272	150,068	10,325	131,807

The postal order transactions continued to show an increase. 61,092 orders, amounting to £40,600 were issued, and 50,947 orders, amounting to £36,384, were paid during the year. Compared with 1913, 388 more, valued at £2,810, were issued, and 6,952 more, valued at £6,717, paid.

The postal revenue totalled £9,782, showing a decrease of £4,705 as compared with 1913 and an increase of £235 as compared with 1912. The abnormal increase in 1913 was due chiefly to sales to collectors of the Georgian issue of stamps.

Customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £2,315, and stamps to the value of £1,995 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £12,046, which shows a decrease of £78 when compared with the figure for 1913.

The only non-military land telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. The head office is at Water Street, Freetown, and a combined telegraph and telephone service is in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There are two important transmitting centres, (1) at Boia, 64½ miles, and (2) at Bo, 136 miles up the line; also two sub-transmitting stations—viz. (*a*) at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to and from Port Lokko and Mabanta, and (*b*) at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch through Serabu to Bendu (Sherbro), whence telegrams are carried to Bonthe and York Island by boat services. A telegraph line is at present under construction between Serabu and Pujehun, the headquarters of the Northern Sherbro District.

There is a similar combined telegraph and telephone service between Boia Junction and Makene, a distance of 83 miles.

During the year under review a commencement was made with the construction of a public telephone exchange in Freetown.

Telegrams from any part of the Colony and Protectorate can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown. The telegraphic rate between England and Sierra Leone is 3*s*. 2*d*. a word, and the deferred rate system at half cost is also in operation.

There is a wireless station at Freetown under the control of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

The revenue derived from the Railway Telegraph Department in 1914 was £2,393, as compared with £2,355 in 1913.

There are small telephone services in Freetown connecting certain Government offices with each other and with Hill Station.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The labours of the Anglo-Liberian Boundary Commission were completed during the year.

The accurate survey of the Colony and Protectorate, which was commenced in 1913 had to be temporarily given up, owing to the services of the officers engaged upon this work being required in connection with the war.

Railway.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street Terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Makene, a distance of 83 miles. This line is being continued to Baga. The total length from Boia to Baga is about 115 miles.

A mountain line, 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. This station stands about 800 feet above sea level. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government wharf, the Government Quarry (Public Works Department) and the Recreation Ground and Ascension Town Cemetery.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations, flag stations, and stopping places is 53. The total mileage open up to the 31st of December, 1914, was 317 miles, exclusive of sidings.

Working expenses amounted to £100,154 and the earnings to £143,250, showing a net revenue of £43,096. The net earnings represent 2·92 per cent. of the capital expenditure. In 1913 the earnings amounted to £167,662 and the net revenue to £89,153.*

The allocation of working expenditure was as follows :—

	£
Way and Works	32,692
Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	37,902
Traffic	17,779
General	11,737
Telephone Exchange	44
Total.. ..	£100,154

	1913.	1914.
Total number of passengers ..	438,388	468,032
Tonnage of goods	62,084	51,665
Train miles	354,212	353,811

	1913. s. d.	1914. s. d.
Receipts per train mile* ..	9 5·6	8 1·17

Working expenses per open and train mile :—

	1913. £	s.	d.	1914. £	s.	d.
Per open mile* ..	299	13	5·9	326	15	4·22
Per train mile* ..	—	5	0·4	—	5	7·93

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 38 locomotive engines. 89 coaching vehicles, and 353 goods vehicles. The goods vehicles include two breakdown vans and two sand wagons, in addition to a travelling crane.

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*The apparent divergence between these figures and the similar figures in the Report for 1913 is due to the elimination in the present report of revenue and expenditure in respect of a sand elevator, concrete block factory, and wharf cranes. The figures now given are based upon the revenue and expenditure of the actual railway, excluding subsidiary undertakings.

Roads.

In addition to the ordinary maintenance work, various bridges and culverts have been constructed, improvements have been made in the lines and gradients of some of the second and third class roads, and surveys have been undertaken with a view to effect future improvements.

Although in 1913 the roads in the Protectorate were put under the supervision of a separate Department, the maintenance of the third class roads is still under the control of the District Commissioners, the chiefs being held responsible for keeping the roads within their chiefdoms clean and in good order.

The paramount chiefs provide the unskilled labour for road construction and maintenance. As a rule no difficulty is experienced in procuring the necessary labour, as the chiefs generally show a keen interest in the work and are fully alive to the advantages to be derived from a good system of roads.

At present there are approximately 1,361 miles of road, of which 68 miles are of the first class, 81 miles of the second class, and 1,212 miles of the third class.

Public Works.

During the year under review the construction of the new Law Courts was continued. Owing to an unavoidable delay in obtaining the necessary materials from England, it was deemed advisable temporarily to close down the work in the later part of the year.

Operations were carried out preliminary to the erection of the new Government House at Hill Station. The site, which has a commanding view over the harbour and town, has been cleared of bush and the ground has been levelled.

Owing to various causes it was found impossible to start the actual building of the new Colonial Hospital until late in the year. The preliminary operations were, however, completed and considerable quantities of materials were collected on the spot.

As has been previously mentioned, the new Freetown prison was completed.

Two new bungalows were erected in Freetown and six at Hill Station. These additional quarters served in a measure to relieve the congestion to which allusion was made in last year's report.

Work was continued during the year on the construction of the new pipe line which is being made with the purpose of supplementing the present Freetown water supply by bringing water from the Babadori Valley to the Tower Hill reservoir by means of gravitation. By the completion of the main pipe early in the present year water from the new source became available for use in Freetown.

For some years past there has been a shortage of water at Hill Station towards the end of the dry season. In the year under review steps were taken to make the main water-tight. The result appears satisfactory.

In addition to the works enumerated above, various minor works were undertaken, including improvements to the Freetown streets and drains. The accommodation in the gaol at Kennema was increased; new quarters for the Medical Officer and District Commissioner at Moyamba were erected, and quarters for the District Commissioner at Waterloo were completed.

Prize Court.

For the first time for many years a Prize Court sat in Freetown. This is the only such court in British West Africa. Its proceedings are regulated by the Prize Court Rules observed in the Prize Courts of the United Kingdom.

Three German ships were condemned, including the "Professor Woermann," having on board a very valuable cargo.

Some of the cargo from the "Max Brock" and "Hans Woermann" was condemned and some released, the ships themselves being sent to England for adjudication.

General.

In spite of the war, the year under review has been a period of satisfactory, if unostentatious, progress, and the prosperity of the Colony has been well maintained.

No cannibal murders were reported during the year from the Northern Sherbro District, which is the centre of these practices, but it is improbable that the cult has been stamped out. The primitive superstitions and tastes of an undeveloped people can no more be blotted out by intimidation than a religion can be destroyed by persecution. The fear of punishment will possibly keep the objectionable activities of the various secret societies in abeyance for a time, but they will almost certainly be continued more secretly than before. The only way in which they can be effectively abolished is by the patient process of educating the native mind to a higher level of intelligence.

Although the great majority of the natives cannot grasp the significance or scope of the war, it is gratifying to record that their attitude has been one of consistent loyalty.

On the outbreak of hostilities the chiefs rendered valuable service to the Government by reserving large stocks of rice, and their loyalty to the British cause has been strikingly manifested by various letters of sympathy, gifts in kind, and subscriptions to patriotic funds, which have been received from them.

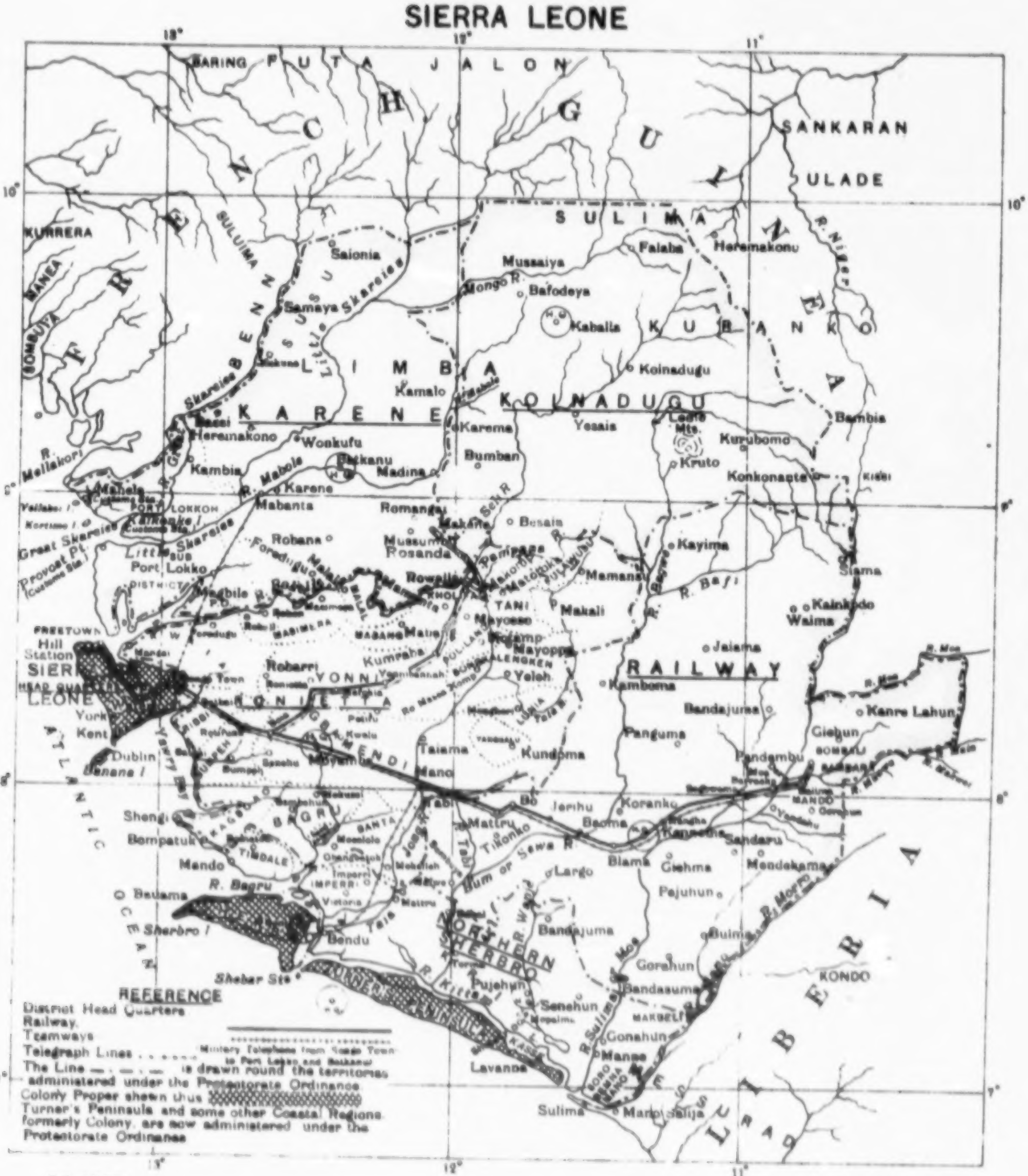
In spite of the strain thrown upon certain departments owing to several European officers being called away in order to carry out the various war services which it was found necessary to establish on the outbreak of hostilities, useful work was done by every branch of the Administration.

There is no reason to suppose that, on the removal of the exceptionally adverse conditions which prevailed during the year under review, the tide of prosperity which has set in of recent years will not again rise to at least as high a level as before.

E. E. Evelyn,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Offices,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
28th June, 1915.

SKETCH MAP OF
SIERRA LEONE


13°
12°
11°
10°
9°
8°
7°
FRENCH GUINEA
BARING
FUTA JALON
SANKARAN
ULADE
SULIMA
KURANKO
LIMBA
KARENE
KOINADUGU
RAILWAY
KURRERA
SOMBUYA
SULUIMA
SUSU
BENNA
Saionia
Samaya
Little Skarcies
Great Skarcies
Mussaiya
Bafodeya
Mongo R.
Falaba
Heremakonu
R. Niger
Kaballa
Koinadugu
Kamalo
Karema
Yesaia
Loma Mts.
Kurubomo
Kruto
Konkonante
Bambia
Kissi
Heremakono
Wonkufu
Kambia
R. Mellakori
Mahela
Batkanu
Madina
Bumban
R. Mabole
Karene
Mabanta
PORT LOKKOH
Kafinnie I.
Yellaboi I.
Kortimo I.
Provost Pt.
Romangai
Makeni
Besaia
Kayima
Robana
Mussumbi
Rosanda
Port Lokko
DISTRICT
Rowalla
Pampana
Mamaka
R. Bafi
Siama
Kainkodo
Waima
Magbile
Makali
Mayosso
Masanga
Matre
Mayoppo
Jaiama
FREETOWN
Hill Station
SIERRA LEONE
HEAD QUARTERS
Kumraha
Yeleh
Kamboma
Robarri
YONNI
RONIETTA
Bandajuma
Kanre Lahun
Giehun
York
Kent
Dublin
Banana I.
Taiama
Kundoma
Panguma
Pendembu
Moyamba
Mano
Bo
Jenihu
Koranko
Baoma
Shenge
Bompatuk
KAGBORO
BAGRU
TIMDALE
IMPERI
Mattru
Tikonko
Blama
Giehma
Kenema
Sandaru
Mando
Mendakama
R. Bagru
Bum or Sewa R.
Largo
Pajuhun
Beuama
Sherbro I.
Bendu
NORTHERN SHERBRO
Bandajuma
Buima
Gorahun
Bandasuma
KONDO
Shebar Sts.
TURNER'S PENINSULA
R. Kittam
Pujehun
Senehun
MAKBELE
Gonahun
Mano
R. Sulima
R. Moa
R. Morro
Lavanna
Sulima
Mano Salija
ATLANTIC OCEAN
LIBERIA
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
Railway
Tramways
Telegraph Lines
Military Telephone from Songo Town to Port Lokko and Batkanu
The Line — · — · — is drawn round the territories administered under the Protectorate Ordinance
Colony Proper shewn thus
Turner's Peninsula and some other Coastal Regions formerly Colony, are now administered under the Protectorate Ordinance

C.O., No 29.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1915.

NOTE.—Rowalla is about 1¼ miles to right (east side) of line after line leaves Makomp Stn. going towards Makene *via* Rosanda.

[Two new Stations opened 1914.

Sa Leone, 15-4-15.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the Importations of Spirits during the Five Years ended 31st December, 1914.*

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.
		£	£			
1910 ..	413,791	59,281	111,930	From the 14th of August, 1908, 5s. the Imperial gallon or part thereof not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of 1d. for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 5·09 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1911 ..	457,911	78,144	120,736	As above	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·01 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1912 ..	626,061	89,590	160,543	As above till the 4th of March, 1912. From that date 5s. 6d. the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½d. per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼d. per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty, 4s. 6d. per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·29 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	288,022
1913 ..	632,087	90,729	167,491	As above till the 9th of June, 1913. From that date 6s. 3d. the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½d. per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1½d. per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty, 5s. per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 5·18 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	275,464
1914 ..	322,836	46,852	89,676	As above	The value of spirit imports amounted to 8·26 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	134,909

* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	„
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	„
820	Jamaica	„
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	„
823	Zanzibar	„
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	„
827	British Honduras	„
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	„
830	Swaziland	„
831	Uganda	„
832	Nyasaland	„
833	British Guiana	„
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	„
837	Somaliland	„
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	„
841	Leeward Islands	„
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	„
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
845	Weihaiwei	„
846	Seychelles	„
847	St. Helena	„
848	Fiji	„
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 888.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 851.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1916.

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A SKETCH MAP will be found in the last Report, No. 851: [Cd. 7622–42.]

No. 888.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 851.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
24th June, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1915, which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. C. Hollis, C.M.G.

I have, etc.,

R. J. WILKINSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

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I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The Revenue for 1915, including £20 10*s.* 0*d.* derived from the sale of Crown Lands, was £504,425.

Excluding the item of £178,936, Reimbursement from Loan, which swelled last year's revenue, there was an increase over the revenue of 1914 of £7,672, decreases of £11,855 under Interest, £4,470 in Inland Revenue, £2,944 under Railway, and £2,309 under Post Office, being more than counterbalanced by an increase of £30,137 under Customs.

The total revenue for the five years 1911 to 1915 was as follows:—

Year.	£
1911	457,759
1912	559,855
1913	618,383
1914	675,689
1915	504,425

Expenditure at £546,770 showed a decrease of £133,374: there were large savings under the heads Railway (£55,188), Public Works Extraordinary (£21,106), Miscellaneous Services (£15,254), Charge of Debt (£29,051), and smaller ones under other heads, while the only important increases were £4,507 under Medical and £2,762 under Provincial Administration.

The Revenue fell short of the expenditure by £42,346. That this deficit was not larger was due to the increases in the Customs Tariff detailed below under *General Features of Trade*, to curtailment of expenditure on public works and other services, and to a considerable saving on the appropriation for the West African Frontier Force, owing to the fact that the pay of the rank and file on active service in the Cameroons had not been finally charged within the financial year.

It is anticipated that this deficit will be made good during the present year by the curtailment of unnecessary expenditure and by the imposition of additional taxation.

The total expenditure for the years 1911 to 1915 was as follows:—

Year.	£
1911	432,448
1912	524,417
1913	622,439
1914	680,146
1915	546,771

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings chargeable to loan funds was £118,481. Of this sum £70,088 was spent on the railway extension and £48,393 on Freetown Harbour Works.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 issued on the 30th of December, 1913, amounted to £942,827, while the total expenditure incurred, as authorized by the Ordinance, amounted to £883,406.

At the end of the year there remained accordingly a balance of £59,421, which has been absorbed in the general assets of the Colony.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £228,657, of which £149,961 represents the cost price of securities held by the Crown Agents on account of surplus funds. The assets include unallocated stores in the Railway, Public Works, and Railway Extension Departments, to the value of £99,127, and materials in manufacturing accounts to the value of £2,459.

In addition to the excess of assets stated above, the sum of £25,728 has been charged against revenue for the extension of the Freetown Waterworks, pending reimbursement by the City Council of Freetown.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,730,048, which is made up as follows :—

	£
4 per cent. Ten-year Convertible Bonds ..	200
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929–1954 ..	729,848
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock 1938–1963 ..	1,000,000
Total	£1,730,048

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st of December, 1915, are as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
4 per cent. Bonds	198	14	5
3½ per cent. Stock	70,919	19	6
Total	£71,118	13	11

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, after deducting these amounts, is £1,658,929 6*s.* 1*d.*

Currency.

In addition to the Imperial coinage and the West African coinage, the five-franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland are legal tender in Sierra Leone, the value of each being 3*s.* 10½*d.* sterling.

During the year legislation was enacted which makes the currency notes for £1 and 10*s.* issued in the United Kingdom under the Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1914, legal tender in the Colony and Protectorate, and notes to the value of £25,000 were issued. The free circulation of this form of currency was somewhat hampered, owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining change for the payment of wages. The notes are now being gradually withdrawn from circulation.

General.

Since the outbreak of war in 1914 there has been a marked depreciation in the capital value of the securities held by the Colony. The loans issued by the Imperial Government for the prosecution of the War have had the effect of depressing gilt-edged securities to a considerable extent, and it is improbable that any revival will take place for several years to come.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1915, amounted to £3,582. The revenue collected during the year from this source was £2,472, making a total of £6,054.

The expenditure on various works and improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected, amounted to £1,895, leaving a balance on the 31st of December of £4,159.

The Protectorate house tax collected during the year amounted to £65,089, as compared with £63,596 in 1914.

At the end of the year the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund amounted to £2,911, of which £2,780 has been invested.

Freetown Municipality.

The revenue of the Municipality during the financial year commencing on the 1st of November, 1914, and ending on the 31st of October, 1915, amounted to £11,639, while the expenditure during the same period was £10,854.

The following table shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Municipality for the five years 1911 to 1915 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1911	12,070	11,172
1912	11,948	11,322
1913	12,414	9,851
1914	10,553	9,065
1915	11,639	10,854

The municipality has a debt of £30,728 2*s.* 11*d.* advanced to it by the Government. Of this sum £27,948 2*s.* 11*d.* is in respect of the Freetown Waterworks, £2,500 a cemetery loan, and £280 the balance of a loan of £1,400 in aid of revenue, repayable in annual instalments of £280.

Towards the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the loan of £2,500 a sum of £709 9*s.* 9*d.* has been accumulated.

The sum of £279 9*s.* 8*d.* is paid annually to the Colonial Government as a proportion of the General Loan Sinking Fund contribution in respect of the Waterworks Loan. Eight annual contributions have been made, amounting in all to £2,235 17*s.* 4*d.*

The Port of Sherbro Fund.

The balance to the credit of this fund on the 1st of January, 1915, was £534. The receipts, including an annual contribution of £300 from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund, amounted to £926, which makes a total of £1,460. The expenditure amounted to £525, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £935.

Funds are thus available for carrying out improvements in the town of Bonthe and in other places within the limits of the Port of Sherbro.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year 1915, after the deduction of drawbacks and refunds, amounted to £235,682, which shows an increase over the corresponding return for 1914 of £29,374.

The increase of Customs revenue was due chiefly to the increase in receipts from duty on tobacco (unmanufactured), £22,481; ditto (manufactured), £3,726; ale, beer, and porter, £2,179; and spirits, £1,912.

The gross revenue derived from import duties in the Port of Sherbro amounted to £39,085 and from those in Freetown to £188,507, as compared with £41,777 and £152,570, respectively, in the preceding year. The depression at the Port of Sherbro was due to a falling off in the number of ships calling at Bonthe with import cargo. The trade of other small ports has, for the time being, completely ceased.

Imports.

The total values of the imports for the five years 1911–1915 are as follows:—

Year.	£
1911	1,267,231
1912	1,424,864
1913	1,750,303
1914	1,405,049
1915	1,255,755

Government imports showed a marked decrease, amounting in value to £125,082, as compared with £196,770 in the preceding year, and representing 9·96 per cent. of the total imports, as against 14·01 per cent. in 1914. This decrease is due to the policy of retrenchment which it was found prudent to adopt.

The statistics given in the Appendix, analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors in the Colony, show an increase in the value and a decrease in the quantity of spirits imported, as compared with the preceding year. A more detailed analysis shows a notable increase in the quantities of ale, whisky, and wines, and a decrease in that of trade spirits imported, as compared with the figures for 1914.

The importation of specie amounted to £175,724, as compared with £238,648 in 1914, but, as pointed out in previous reports, owing to the fact that the Freetown branch of the Bank of British West Africa is a distributing centre for practically the whole of West Africa, no increase or decrease in the importation of specie can be regarded as having any reliable bearing upon the economic condition of the Colony.

Exports.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1911-1915:—

Year.	£
1911	1,300,238
1912	1,540,754
1913	1,731,252
1914	1,250,478
1915	1,254,621

Of the return for 1915, £852,751 is represented by the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone, as against £933,338 in 1914.

Specie was exported during the year to the value of £311,753, showing an increase of £103,182 as compared with the return for the previous year

SIERRA LEONE PRODUCTS.

Palm Products.

Palm Kernels. The exports during 1915 show an increase in volume of 3,709 tons and a falling off in value of £55,280. The total quantity exported amounted to £39,624 tons, valued at £504,033.

The decrease in the market value of this product was very noticeable. The price in Europe at one time fell as low as £12 10*s.* a ton, whereas in the preceding year the price never fell below £16, nor in 1913 below £21, a ton. Prices, however, rose steadily towards the end of the year, and reached £19 a ton in December.

In 1913 Germany secured 43,016 tons of this commodity out of a total of 49,201 tons exported. In the year under review the whole quantity exported went to the United Kingdom, where crushing mills have now been established.

Nut Butter, or Margarine, into the composition of which the oil of the kernel largely enters, is now recognised as a nutritious form of diet. It is at present in general use in the United Kingdom, and will probably sustain its place on the market even when the present inflated price of butter again becomes normal.

Palm Oil. Prices were well maintained throughout the year on the European market, and increases are shown in both the quantity and value of the oil exported. The volume of export was 481,576 gallons valued at £45,671, as compared with 436,144 gallons valued at

£38,537 in 1914. Of the total quantity exported 384,006 gallons went to the United Kingdom, and 89,869 to France. In 1913 out of a total of 617,089 gallons, 509,688 went to the United Kingdom, 69,786 to Germany, and none to France. It is satisfactory to observe that France has more than adequately assumed the place of Germany as an importer of this product.

It is a matter of regret that Messrs. Lever Brothers have felt compelled to give up the factory which was established by them three years ago at Yonnibanna. They have been forced to the conclusion that the difficulties of labour and transport are insurmountable. The machinery belonging to the Yonnibanna plant will be re-erected on another of the firm's West African concessions in the Gold Coast, where the natives have been more quick to realize the ultimate benefits to themselves of such an undertaking.

Kola Nuts. The export of kola nuts during 1915 showed an increase in quantity of 117 tons and a decrease in value of £43,793. The total quantity exported was 2,042 tons, valued at £233,406. The trade, which is mostly in the hands of Syrians, is almost entirely with other West African countries.

In spite of the fall in price, the prospects for this commodity are encouraging. Owing to the issue by the French Government of large quantities of ground nut seed in the Senegal, their next ground nut crop should be larger than in the previous year. If this occurs, the increased purchasing powers of the natives of Senegal will improve the trade in kola nuts.

Piassava. The exports of this commodity reached 1,283 tons, valued at £27,491, as compared with 983 tons, valued at £19,492, in 1914. Prices rose steadily from the beginning of the War until in January, 1915, they had reached £61 a ton. At this point there was a sudden drop, and in the four last months of the year only £23 a ton was offered in the European market.

Before the War Germany took the greater portion of this product. In the year under review the whole quantity went to the United Kingdom.

Ginger. The quantity of exported ginger again showed a decline, only 567 tons, valued at £8,091, being shipped, as against 1,213 tons, valued at £15,639, in 1914.

The further decrease in the output of this commodity was due to the low prices offered in the home market. In 1910 the average price per cwt. was 41*s*. In the year under review an average price of only 24*s*. was paid. Though this figure shows an increase over that of the two preceding years, it is not sufficiently high to stimulate production. It is probable that the next crop of ginger will be about half the normal quantity. The trade is almost entirely with the United Kingdom.

African Rice. In spite of restrictions which it was found necessary to impose on the exportation of rice, the quantity exported was 21,600 bushels, as compared with 18,705 bushels in the preceding year. The value increased from £4,855 to £7,228.

The trade in rice is almost entirely confined to other West African countries.

Hides. The number of hides exported is returned as 12,564, this being 2,003 more than in 1914.

Camwood. In 1914 the value of the exports of this product was £142. In the year under review a remarkable increase occurred in both the value and quantity exported, 635 tons, valued at £8,761, being shipped. The whole of this quantity went to the United Kingdom, where prices rose to £25 a ton in April. By June, however, the price had fallen to £8 a ton, which was not sufficient to cover the cost of railway transport and freightage. After April no more camwood was exported.

During the early portion of the year camwood appears to have been used as an important ingredient in the formation of an aniline dye substitute. This would account for the above figures and the sudden stoppage in the trade.

Gum Copal. The export of this product was forbidden by an Order in Council passed on the 30th September, 1913, for a period of five years.

Rubber. One ton only, as compared with three tons in 1914, was exported. For some years the export of this commodity has been on the downward grade.

General Features of Trade.

The predominating factors during the year under review have been the total absence of German trade and the shortage of shipping. Although most of the vessels which called at Freetown, especially those homeward bound, have been loaded up to the hatches, and many have had deck cargo in addition, the shortage placed a severe restriction on both the inward and outward trade of the Colony.

In order to sustain the revenue it was found necessary to increase the import duties. By the Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, a surtax of 25 per cent. was levied on the existing 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duties as from the 21st July. Orders in Council were also passed on the 10th of March and 21st of July increasing the specific duties, the general effect of which was to impose about 25 per cent. extra duty on spirits, wine, ale, tobacco and other articles.

It is gratifying to record that not only did the aggregate trade with the United Kingdom increase from £1,347,757 to £1,528,198, as compared with the preceding year, but the proportion of trade with the United Kingdom to the total trade advanced from 50·75 to 60·88 per cent. Before the War only about 40 per cent. of the trade was with the mother country.

The United Kingdom was responsible for 69·35 per cent. of the import trade and for 52·39 per cent. of the export trade, as compared with 69·73 per cent. and 29·43 per cent. in 1914. The aggregate increase is therefore entirely due to the export trade.

After the trade with the United Kingdom that with other British West African possessions came next in importance. The United States of America was fourth on the list, with an aggregate trade of £102,449, which is roughly double of that in 1913.

Shipping.

1,146 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,635,119 tons, entered and cleared, as compared with 1,788 ships, aggregating 2,780,118 tons the year before. This return includes 232 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 8,746 tons, entered, and 233, of an aggregate tonnage of 10,900 tons, cleared. The corresponding figures for last year were:—Sailing ships entered, 260; aggregate tonnage, 7,263 tons. Sailing ships cleared, 259; aggregate tonnage 4,330 tons.

The decrease in aggregate tonnage is due to the effects of the War. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities over 27 per cent. of vessels calling at this Colony were German and many of the British vessels which called were engaged in trade with German ports. The shortage of shipping due to the cessation of German oversea trade has been accentuated by the requirements of the Navy and Army, by abnormal shipping casualties, and by the internment of ships in enemy ports since the outbreak of war. German shipping entered in 1914 was over 19 per cent. of the total, while the United Kingdom shipping was 78 per cent. In 1915 the United Kingdom was responsible for 94 per cent., Germany's share being, of course, nil.

The subjoined table gives a statement of the total shipping inwards for the years 1911 to 1915.

	Inward.	
Year.	Number.	Tons.
1911	858	1,248,455
1912	1,063	1,336,120
1913	993	1,463,602
1914	898	1,398,708
1915	569	809,405

The number outwards being, of course, practically identical.

AGRICULTURE.

(a) *Experimental Farm.*

The headquarters of the Agricultural Department are at Jala, a village situated some six miles north of Mano, in the Ronietta District of the Protectorate. Good communications run in every direction from this centre. The Experimental Farm, which was opened in 1912, covers a total area of about 1,200 acres, and is divided into two parts by the Taia River, which winds through the estate and provides a perennial supply of water for the nurseries and gardens. A great variety of soil is met with. In the month of April an unfortunate fire occurred which burnt down the labourers' lines and swept over the farm. This caused considerable difficulty in procuring labour for the planting season and in consequence only 16 out of 44 acres were sown with annual crops. It was, however, found possible to extend the permanent plantations by the addition of 4 acres of coconuts.

Permanent Plantations. Areas were opened up in 1913 for permanent plantations of cocoa, coffee, lime and kola. Experiments which have been carried out now show conclusively that superior results are obtainable by deep hoeing than by orchard cultivation.

Annual Crops. The usual native method of cultivation is, when the area under cultivation gets exhausted, to allow it to revert to bush and open up a fresh area of bush for farming purposes. Experiments were carried out in the cultivation of annual crops with the object of demonstrating to the natives that the same land can be cropped year after year by careful cultivation and green manuring. The chiefs and people who have visited the farm averred that they were astonished at the results obtained. In the case of the annual crops as in that of the permanent plantations, deep hoeing has been shown to be superior to orchard cultivation.

Rice. The rice crop was good, owing to the heavy rainfall. A number of the rices under trial are swamp rices grown under dry cultivation. The results in favour of deep hoeing and green manuring were very marked, the yield of Sierra Leone rices grown on deep-hoed plots being in some cases nearly four times as great as that of the same variety grown on land which was not deep-hoed. In the case of the deep-hoed plots, the land was hoed about December, 1914, with kodali hoes to a depth of from 6 to 8 inches. The clods were turned over so that the bottom surface was exposed to the sun during the dry season from December to the beginning of May.

Cotton. The trials were a failure, owing to the heavy rains during the early part of growth. The experiments will, however, be continued in 1916.

Yams. This crop again grew well. The yield per acre was 5 tons 7 cwts.

Leguminous Crops. Trials of various legumes were carried out with the main object of proving their value as cover crops and green manures. A large amount of pigeon pea (*Cajanus Indicus*) was sown. It is one of the best cover crops grown in the country and forms a good green manure.

Bengal Bean. (*Stizolobium Aterrinum*) was tried for the first time. It forms a dense cover crop, stands the rain well and is an excellent green manure. Though a climbing plant, it can grow without support.

Cow Pea (*Vigna Catjung*) is largely grown in the Colony. It is sown towards the end of the rains and planted among the late corn crop. The pea matures early and is a good edible legume. The crop at the Experimental Farm was badly damaged by deer and other ground game. When planted close together it is an excellent green manure, if sown after an early crop of rice and hoed in towards the end of November.

Swart Bean (*Canavalia Ensiformis*) is an edible bean. It grows well and would form a useful cover crop and a good green manure.

Black Gram (*Phaseolus Mungo*) is a small creeper, which forms a green manure, but is liable to a leaf disease in the height of the rains.

Towe Bean (*Phaseolus Lunatus*) is commonly grown among the Mendi rice farms. It will not stand the heavy rain without support; hence it is of no value as a green manure or cover crop. The plant is grown by the natives for edible purposes. Although the coloured bean is noted to yield from ·04 to ·09 per cent. of prussic acid, its consumption does not appear to have any ill-effect upon the natives.

Lab Lab (*Dolichos Lab Lab*) is better suited to a drier region than is met with in Sierra Leone. Its leaves are attacked during the rainy season by a fungoid disease. It forms dense cover but needs support.

Indigo is commonly found around villages in the Protectorate. It grows well and forms an excellent green manure and cover crop. Certain old women prepare a useful dye from the plant.

Bush Tea (*Ocimum Viride*), otherwise known as the *Sierra Leone Fever Plant*, has caused interest as a possible future source of thymol. In the past the supply of this drug has come from Germany, where it was extracted from the Adjwan seed of India. Nearly every town and village in Sierra Leone has a few bush tea plants, but it may be as well to state definitely that it is not extensively cultivated. The plant grows wild and under present conditions the leaves could not be obtained in sufficiently large quantities for commercial purposes, owing to the wide area of distribution. Moreover, the bulky nature of the leaves would render their transport to England expensive and so would narrow the limits of profit. A quantity of the seed was sent to the Imperial Institute for trial cultivation in Colonies and Protectorates where facilities exist for the distillation of essential oils.

Poultry breeding experiments. In the year 1914 it was decided to carry out these experiments, the object being to form a stock farm for the distribution of large English birds in the Colony and Protectorate and thereby to increase the size of the native birds and to improve their laying qualities. Five hens and two cocks of the following breeds have therefore been obtained from the south-eastern village, Wye, Kent:—

White Wyandottes,
White Leghorns,
Indian Game.

At first the birds were kept under the "American Scratching Pen" system. During the year the mortality was considerable. Of about 500 eggs put into the incubator, only 60 hatched out and 75 per cent. of the eggs were clean. During the rainy season all the chickens died except one Indian Game bird. In the latter part of the year the birds were given more liberty. The change has increased the egg production in an extraordinary manner. Better results are anticipated by the "Open Run" system.

(*b*) *General*.

The rains of 1915 started earlier than usual. The farms which had been cut were therefore not properly burnt and the farmers had trouble in the sowing. It was at first feared that there would be a shortage of rice, but, although the cleared areas were not entirely sown, sufficient rice was harvested not only to meet the requirements of the natives but also to admit of a considerable surplus for export.

Owing to the low price of ginger, most of the crop was not harvested.

The crop of kola nuts was good, but, owing to the scarcity of money, the market was short and brisk.

The pepper trade has been very good. Dried peppers were being sold in the Protectorate for 15*s*. per bushel, which is about 6*s*. above the normal price.

At the beginning of the year the piassava trade caused excitement among the natives of the Northern Sherbro district owing to the rise in the price of this commodity on the English market, to about £60 a ton. The demand was however soon met and, as stated elsewhere in this report, the price fell again.

A large quantity of groundnuts is produced in the Koinadugu district. In 1914 a number of farms were destroyed by a fungoid disease identified at Kew as *Cercospora Personata*. A consignment of groundnut was ordered from the Gambia and these were distributed in 1915 in order to prevent the farmers planting seeds from the diseased crop. The people were advised to plant them on new farms in order to avoid the infected areas.

A large amount of cocoa has been planted by the natives in the Northern Sherbro district and there are indications of the development of an important industry in this commodity. The natives wash and dry the beans but do not ferment them. They have, however, been shown on several occasions the proper method of fermentation, and it is hoped that by continual demonstrations they may be induced to adopt it.

The cattle-breeding region of Sierra Leone lies up in the northern regions of the Karene and Koinadugu districts. The people depend on their supplies of stock from French country. As the French Government restricts the export of cows, the cattle which are driven into British territory consist chiefly of bullocks and weedy bulls. The breeding herds in the northern districts are not very large, but suffice to supply meat to the colony and Protectorate. The cattle are driven down to the railway and Freetown and disposed of in the populous trading centres. During the year 1915 a cattle plague visited the Koinadugu district and took a rapid and fatal course. Owing to there being no veterinary officer in the Colony, it was impossible to identify the disease.

On account of the general depression of trade, no agricultural shows were held in the Protectorate.

Summary of work done by the Imperial Institute on behalf of the Colony.

A large number of enquiries on the subject of palm kernels and their products were dealt with by the Imperial Institute during the year, and action was taken with a view to popularize the use among British farmers of palm kernel cake as a feeding stuff for cattle.

A sample of piassava pulp sent from this Colony for examination in March, 1915, was found to consist of a matted mass of fibre, resembling coir in appearance, varying in length from 1 foot to 3 feet, and of variable strength. Coir merchants to whom it was submitted were of opinion that it could be employed as a substitute for low grade coir, and it was stated that, if shipped in dry condition in press-packed bales, it would realize from £6 to £8 per ton in London at the prices then current.

A sample of soil from the Banana Islands, which was forwarded for analysis, was found to be deficient in available potash and phosphoric acid, but adequately supplied with nitrogen and humus. The application of lime and of a phosphate manure was recommended.

The Colony is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a court containing exhibits illustrating its resources and industries.

Forestry.

In spite of shortage of staff, useful work was performed by the Forest Department during the year. The most important work was the final settlement of claims brought by farmers in the Peninsula Reserve for compensation for loss of their permanent economic trees. The reservation of this area of 75 square miles of good forest is now completed.

The demarcation of the proposed reservation of a portion of the Kambui Hills, near Kennema, was continued.

The formation of forest reservations is of great importance as a factor calculated to counteract a tendency on the part of the natives to destroy the rain forest, on which the Colony largely depends for its wealth.

Some afforestation was done in the Peninsula and Kassewe Hills Reserves, and work was continued in the various nurseries and plantations, 133 specimens being added to the forest herbarium. Some new plantations of Para rubber and kola were opened in the Railway and Northern Sherbro Districts, and several of the old ones were extended.

Game.

The following were reported shot by holders of licences during 1915:—

1 elephant, 1 buffalo, 3 water-bucks, 1 harnessed antelope, 1 duiker, 3 kobs, 5 Red River hogs.

The chief areas for game are in the Karene and Koinadugu Districts of the Protectorate.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Ordinances were passed in 1915, among the more important of which were the following:—

The Volunteer Ordinance, which authorises the Governor to raise volunteers to serve with the Regular Forces.

The Press Censorship Ordinance, which provides for the establishment of press censorship for the purpose of prohibiting the publication of information of military value.

The Probates (British and Colonial) Regulation Ordinance, which provides for the recognition in the Colony and Protectorate of probate and letters of administration granted in the United Kingdom or in a British Possession or Protectorate, or in a British Court in a foreign country.

The Sheriff's (Protectorate) Ordinance, which regulates the appointment to, and duties of, the office of Sheriff in the Protectorate,

The Public Health (Protectorate) Ordinance, which provides for the declaration of Sanitary Districts in the Protectorate, and the framing of rules, and which constitutes the Chief as the Sanitary Authority in each such district for the purpose of enforcing the rules.

The Currency Notes Ordinance, which makes the Currency Notes for £1 and 10*s*., issued under the provisions of the Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1914, legal tender in the Colony and Protectorate.

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, by which a surtax of 25 per cent. was placed on the existing *ad valorem* duties of 10 per cent.

The Customs Duties (Further) Amendment Ordinance, which augments the specific duties, increases the ad valorem duties to 15 per cent, renders food stuffs liable to the ad valorem duty, and repeals the Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, as from the 1st of January, 1916.

As mentioned above, two Orders in Council were passed during the year, increasing the import duties. These were, however, both repealed as from the 1st January, 1916, on which date the Customs Duties (Further) Amendment Ordinance came into force.

In consequence of the War a number of Proclamations were issued, including provisions which restricted and prohibited the export of certain goods.

By a Governor's Order of the 15th March, 1915, ships other than small local sailing vessels, were prohibited from anchoring in any of the territorial waters of the Colony except within the limits of Freetown and the port of Sherbro.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of :—

(*a*) Elementary Mission Schools ;
(*b*) The Government Model School ;
(*c*) The Industrial or Trade Schools ;
(*d*) Secondary Schools ;
(*e*) Government Mohammedan Elementary Schools :
(*f*) The Diocesan Technical School ;
(*g*) Fourah Bay College (which is affiliated to the University of Durham).

Elementary Mission schools derive their revenue from Government grants, school fees, society grants, and voluntary contributions.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony is 112, of which 100 are assisted by the Government.

The distribution of the elementary mission schools of the Colony among the several denominations is as follows :—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	45	3,267	2,276
Wesleyan Methodist	30	1,935	1,316
United Methodist..	13	740	400
Roman Catholic	8	308	224
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion ..	10	353	253
African Methodist Episcopal	2	150	112
United Brethren in Christ	2	188	125
Seventh Day Adventist	2	64	54
Total	112	7,005	4,760

Compared with the previous year, these figures show an increase of 5 in the number of schools and a decrease of 107 in the average attendance. There was, also, a decrease of 399 in the roll number.

The total income of the 100 assisted elementary schools was £8,179, of which school fees amounted to £1,097. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,285.

The total expenditure was £7,011, as compared with £5,835 in the previous year.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, and hand and wood work are compulsory subjects in the assisted schools. History, geography and nature study are included in the curriculum of most schools, and hygiene and sanitation to a lesser extent; the study of geography has developed on more intelligent lines, owing to the part played by the local forces in the expedition to the Cameroons.

A general survey shows marked improvement of the rural, as contrasted with a lowering of standard in some urban, schools, caused generally by changes in the teaching staff. The infant schools show the happiest results under the present system, intelligence is attained and a healthy atmosphere is preserved in most of these schools.

The Government Model School, which was closed in August, 1914, to be used as a place of internment for enemy subjects, was reopened in February. The enrolment and attendance were as follows :—

	Roll.	Average attendance.
Seniors	170	85
Infants	97	76

This institution is a higher grade elementary school intended to accommodate 200 senior and 100 infant pupils. The Staff consists of three Europeans, a Principal, Vice-Principal and Instructress, and eight male and four female native teachers. Among these are included a manual training assistant, drill instructor, and an Arabic master. Members of the staff are also employed in the training of existing teachers.

The school aims at a close correlation of theory and practice. Hand and wood-work, hygiene and sanitation, physical drill and nature study are taught, in addition to the usual subjects taught in the elementary schools.

There are two industrial schools in the Colony, one at Mobe, in the Northern Sherbro District, belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission, and the other at Waterloo, owned by the Seventh Day Adventists. The former is assisted by the Government. The enrolment and average attendance at Mobe were 66 and 64, and at Waterloo 64 and 54 respectively. The total amount of grants earned by the Mobe School was £127. The town of Bonthe, an important trading centre, recruits its skilled craftsmen mainly from this school. While Mobe deals with Mendis and Sherbros, the Waterloo school is concerned chiefly with Sierra Leoneans.

There are thirteen secondary schools in the Colony, eight missionary and five proprietary. An attempt at uniformity of standard has been made since December 1914, when the Cambridge Local Examinations were held for the first time in Sierra Leone. The total enrolment was 1,285 and the average attendance 1,050. There are no Government or grant-aided secondary schools.

There are five Mohammedan schools or madrasas for the education of Mohammedan boys and girls ; the roll number was 655 and the average attendance 411, as compared with 659 and 423 in the previous year. Over a third of the children belong to the tribes of the Protectorate and consist mainly of Mandingoes, Temnes, Susus, and Foulahs. The subjects taught are the same as in other assisted schools, with the addition of Arabic. Manual training has now been introduced, with advantageous results.

The Mohammedan community continued to show its appreciation of the advantages afforded by the Government; in the year under review the sum of £246 16*s.* 8*d.* was contributed to the school funds; this amount includes the purchase money for land for new buildings for Mohammedan schools.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School has had a prosperous year. The total number of students on the roll rose from 20 to 30. These are drawn from many sources, including the leading schools in the Colony.

The school aims at imparting sound instruction in the theory and practice of the building trades and kindred subjects.

The upkeep involves an annual expenditure of about £500, which is met by private subscriptions, sale of work, and pupils' fees, and partly by a Government grant.

By the bequest of the late Dr. J. A. B. Horton, eight scholarships of £10 each are now tenable at the school, giving free education. They are for two ye s and may be renewed for a third on the recommendation of the headmaster. During the year four scholars were elected by public examination.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only University College in West Africa.

From September, 1914, to March, 1915, the buildings were used as a place of internment for enemy subjects.

The average number of students keeping term was in 1913, 22; in 1914, 18; and in 1915, 15.

Only three students matriculated during the year, while nine completed all examinations for the B.A. and two for the licence in theology.

Protectorate Schools.

There were at the end of the year 113 pupils on the roll of the school at Bo for the sons and nominees of chiefs, as compared with 100 at the end of 1914.

The school fees amounted to £770, while the total cost of maintaining the school was £3,416, the balance of £2,646 being met from general revenue.

A vacation course for teachers in the non-Government schools of the Protectorate was held at the Bo School for three weeks in August. The course, which was strictly limited to lectures and practical demonstrations in school methods and management, was attended by 38 teachers, and has already led to the introduction of improvements in some of the non-Government schools. It is anticipated that if such a course is held periodically it will have important and far-reaching results.

At the beginning of the year three boys from the Bo School were appointed to scolarships in the Agricultural Department. It is hoped that by returning to their chiefdoms at a later period of their lives, they will use the knowledge thus gained to improve the primitive methods of agriculture now in general use among the natives.

On February the 15th an experimental elementary day school was opened at Bumpeh, in the Railway District, under the direction of the principal of Bo School. It had been arranged that the chief and his headmen should provide the site and buildings, while the Government would furnish the necessary staff and equipment. At the end of the year there were 63 pupils enrolled and the children have turned out to be much more regular in their attendance than was thought possible in a purely native day school. As none of the pupils had been to school previously, the instruction is of a very elementary description. £120 was expended on the school during the year.

Fifty non-Government schools, with a total of 1,808 names on the rolls, were inspected and reported on, some of which were found to be doing useful work. On the whole, however, a great need exists among these schools for efficient and well paid teachers. In ordinary times most of the missions which attempt scholastic work have neither the professional skill at their command to train their teachers, nor the means to pay them adequately, if trained. Some of the missions have suffered severely during the year owing to lack of funds, and teachers' salaries have in consequence been affected.

As a result of the inspections the sum of £585 was awarded by the Government as grants-in-aid, of which £324 went to the boarding schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

In 1915 the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries amounted to a total of 50,513 out-patients and in-patients as compared with 49,420 in the preceding year.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,136 individuals were treated as in-patients and 8,181 as out-patients, as compared with 1,443 and 9,174, respectively, in the preceding year.

The number of operations performed was 218, a smaller number than during any year since 1909. Included in this figure were six cases remaining in hospital from 1914. 188 of these operations were successful while 13 patients died. 11 cases still remained under treatment on the last day of the year.

The decrease in the number of operations performed was due to a shortage in medical officers, and that in the number of out-patients to the popularity of Cline Town Dispensary, at which 7,006 patients were treated.

At the Lunatic Asylum at Kissy there was a total of 173 patients, of whom 46 were admitted during the year. This total shows an increase of 24 as compared with 1914. Of the 173 patients under treatment, 13 were relieved and discharged, and 23 died, leaving a total of 137 at the end of the year.

One case of chicken-pox and one case of small-pox were discovered at the asylum during the year, both of which were admitted into the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

At the Female Incurable Hospital there were 27 patients at the beginning of the year and 52 were admitted. Of these, 38 were relieved and discharged, and 17 died. On the 31st of December 24 patients remained.

At the Male Incurable Hospital there were 50 patients at the beginning of the year. During the year, 101 were admitted, 68 were discharged (as cured), and 53 died.

At the Leper Asylum there was one patient at the beginning of the year, and 4 were admitted. Of these 1 died and 2 absconded.

Altogether 9 cases of small-pox and 4 of chicken-pox were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year.

Good work was performed at the various minor dispensaries and outstations.

European Nursing Home.

There were 66 admissions during the year. Of these, 40 were officials and 26 belonged to the mercantile and shipping communities. 32 of the cases were malaria.

Savings Bank.

The falling off in Savings Bank business which commenced on the outbreak of the War continued throughout the year.

The deposits numbered 10,453 and amounted to £55,652, as compared with 10,442 and £57,816 in 1914. The withdrawals totalled 8,912 and amounted to £60,458, showing an increase of 894 and a decrease of £443 in comparison with the figures for 1914.

The average value of each deposit was £5 6*s*. 5*d*. and of each withdrawal, £6 15*s*. 8*d*., as against £5 10*s*. 9*d*. and £8 3*s*. 2*d*., respectively, in 1914.

1,590 accounts were opened during the year and 1,460 were closed.

At the end of the year the names of 6,606 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £109,547. The average value of each account at the close of the year was £16 11*s*. 8*d*., as compared with £17 5*s*. 11*d*. in 1914. £2,542 12*s*. 7*d*. was credited as interest to depositors, which exceeds by £16 6*s*. 11*d*. the amount allowed in the preceding year.

During the year 112 unclaimed accounts, amounting to £208 4*s*. 1*d*., lapsed to the general revenue of the Colony.

The total sum invested amounted to £112,159 15*s*. 0*d*., and the dividends to £3,857, as compared with £3,819 for 1914. The profits were £602, as against £1,140 for the previous year.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is employed only in the Colony, police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of court messengers under the administration of the District Commissioners.

At the end of the year under review the authorized strength of the police force consisted of a total of all ranks of 285, including three European officers, the Commissioner, and two Assistant Commissioners of Police. The discipline was again well maintained. The health of the force continued to be good.

1,592 cases were reported to the police. In 87 per cent. of these cases arrests were made. Of the persons arrested 77 per cent. were convicted, the remainder being discharged.

An increase occurred in the number of cases of drunkenness and petty larceny, while decreases are shown in the returns of common assaults, and other charges.

The number of crimes of a serious nature is very small. There were during the year no cases of murder, and only one of manslaughter and four of wounding.

Fire Brigade.

There is in Freetown a voluntary fire brigade, which is under the control of the Municipality. In serious fires the military are always prepared to render assistance.

There were twelve accidental outbreaks of fires during the year, resulting in the destruction of property of the rateable value of £31.

The most serious of these fires occurred on the 18th of May when a quantity of kerosene got ignited on the Government Wharf. Altogether about 1,000 cases of kerosene and other materials were destroyed. Owing to the energetic efforts of Government officials and others the fire was prevented from spreading. The thanks of the Government and of the community are specially due to Messrs Elder Dempster and Company, who materially assisted in extinguishing the flames by placing a large gang of labourers at the disposal of the Commissioner of Police.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners received into Freetown prison in 1915 was 1,054, as compared with 978 in 1914. The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 259, as against 241 in the preceding year.

It is satisfactory to record that there has been a steady improvement in the conduct of the prisoners since the introduction of the grading system on the 26th January, 1914.

In addition to employment on the ordinary services of the prison, the prisoners made considerable progress in levelling the compound and in laying broken syenite for the purpose of assisting in the drainage of surface water and keeping down the dust. The tailoring branch of the industrial department turned out goods valued at £650, while 150 coffins were produced in the carpenter's shop for the hospitals.

Although no epidemic occurred, the health of the prisoners was hardly as satisfactory as the excellent sanitary conditions might lead one to expect. Twenty-eight deaths were recorded during the year. Everything possible is being done to improve the health of the prisoners, and it is hoped that the high death rate which has been recorded may prove to be of a purely temporary and adventitious character.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 45 convictions in that Court during the year, including 32 for larceny.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown 1,960 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 2,248 in 1914.

In the District Courts of the Colony, at Waterloo and Bonthe, there were 302 persons convicted summarily, as against 551 in the preceding year.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 95 convictions, as compared with 60 in 1914; of these 4 were for murder.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 713 convictions, as compared with 695 in the preceding year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European and American residents was

Officials	258
Military	698
Others	245
Total ..	1,201

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans due to climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate for the last ten years :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1906 ..	3	—	2	1	1	1	8
1907 ..	2	—	3	3	2	3	13
1908 ..	1	—	1	6	3	2	13
1909 ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	6
1910 ..	—	—	9	2	2	2	15
1911 ..	2	5	2	1	—	1	11
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14

Two were amongst the military, and were due to malaria. Two were amongst officials and were classified as follows :—1 chronic nephritis, 1 heart disease.

Ten were amongst the rest of the European community, and were classified as follows :—1 sunstroke, 1 meningitis, 1 accident, 1 malarial fever and hyperpyrexia, 1 bilious remittent fever, 1 hæmatemesis (exhaustion), 1 malaria (intermittent), 3 blackwater fever.

The average number of resident officials was 158, as against 204 in 1914. Of these, 139 were placed on the sick list for a total period of 1,412 days. The average number of days upon the sick list for each patient was 10·15, and the daily average on the sick list was 3·86. The percentage of deaths to the total number of residents was ·77, and to the average number 1·2.

Seven officials were invalided from the following causes, as against 11 in the preceding year :—Hemiplegia 1, anæmia 1, pyorrhœa 1, pyorrhœa alveolaris 1, traumatic headache 1, amœbic dysentery 1, plantar fibrosis 1.

The percentage of invalidings to the total number of residents was 2·71.

Cline Town.

The average number of Europeans at this station was 45. The health on the whole was good. Altogether 63 cases were placed on the sick list, but many of these were cases of slight indisposition.

The number of patients treated in the dispensary was 7,006, with 6,301 subsequent attendances. The chief diseases treated were those of the digestive and respiratory systems.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 77, as compared with 76 during 1914. Of these 48 were officials, 5 missionaries, 4 military officers, and 20 non-officials. The families of military and civil officers are included in the last number. The general health was satisfactory.

The slopes of the hill are being gradually planted with grass, which produces a park-like appearance, and helps to keep down rank growths.

Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company have built a fine residence for their agent. This house and those of the African Direct Telegraph Company and of the Wesleyan Mission are the only dwellings other than those owned by the Colonial Government or the military authorities.

The number of houses now totals 42.

Population of the Colony (as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony was returned at the last decennial census, in 1911, as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths recorded during 1915 was 1,691, or 22 per 1,000, and of births 1,459, or 19 per 1,000, of the population.

The population of Freetown, according to the 1911 census, was 34,090; the births registered in 1915 numbered 721 and the deaths 992.

These figures show a birth-rate of 21 and a death-rate of 29 per 1,000 respectively.

The chief causes of death in Freetown were, in the order given, as follows:—

(1) Diseases of the digestive system. (2) Diseases of the respiratory system and diseases of the nervous system. (3) Malarial fever. (4) Premature births. (5) Debility. (6) Diseases of the circulatory system. (7) Tuberculosis.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last ten years are subjoined:—

1906	242
1907	210
1908	222
1909	188
1910	214
1911	156
1912	195
1913	221
1914	234
1915	219

Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in the Colony, but not in the Protectorate.

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10, according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate :—

Mendis	442,524	Autocthonous and semi-autocthonous pagan groups.
Lokkos	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis)	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	
Foulahs	11,500	Northern invading and Mohammedanizing groups.
Mandingoes	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Temnes	347,229	
Limbahs	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
	1,323,151	

General.

The oustanding feature of the public health was an outbreak of small-pox. The epidemic probably originated in French territory and spread down the trade route from Kindia to Kambia on the Lesser Scarcies River in October. In spite of the vigorous measures which were taken to vaccinate the population and carry out a systematic scheme of isolation and disinfection, the disease not only infected almost all the towns in this region but also spread. Fortunately the epidemic is in a very mild form, and this feature, added to the extensive vaccination which is being carried out, is likely to ensure comparative freedom for some years to come.

Of 6,880 vaccinations performed 4,976 were successful and 1,276 were unsuccessful: the remainder were not observed.

Six cases of blackwater fever came under observation during the year.

Three cases of sleeping sickness were discovered at Kissy, Makene, and Kaballa, respectively. As a result of the recommendations of Professor Warrington Yorke and Dr. Blacklock, who visited the Colony late in 1914 under the auspices of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, measures have been taken to limit the breeding of glossinæ.

100 cases of tuberculosis were treated, most of which were of the pulmonary variety. The infection is as a rule virulent and the disease runs a rapidly fatal course. Of a total of 992 deaths for the year in Freetown 31 are returned as due to tuberculosis.

22 cases of leprosy were treated. The disease has been discovered in a rat.

The returns of malaria show that 2,221 cases were treated as compared with 2,460 in 1914.

Sanitation.

The Public Health (Protectorate) Ordinance, 1915, alluded to above under "Legislation," is the first Ordinance to be enacted which deals with public health in the Protectorate. It places sanitation in the Protectorate upon a definite legal footing, whereas previously only advice and persuasion could be brought to bear. The town of Bo in the Railway District was declared a Sanitary District under this Ordinance.

The work in connexion with the Brookfields drainage scheme, initiated in 1911, continued to be carried on, and will, it is anticipated, on its completion, effect a great improvement in the sanitation of the Brookfields area.

The number of mosquito larvæ cases in the Freetown Police Court was 587, as against 746 in 1914.

At the beginning of the year Dakar was still plague-infected; the quarantine restrictions imposed on vessels arriving from that port were withdrawn on the 1st of February.

The water supply of the Railway Reservation at Cline Town from the mountain torrent, which has been found in the past to be liable to pollution, has been replaced by that from the Freetown water supply.

A rat catcher who was employed in Freetown during the year accounted for 2,133 rats. In addition to this number 2,795 rats were brought into the Colonial Hospital by the public and paid for at the rate of one penny each.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those Chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary conditions of their chiefdoms have appeared to merit recognition.

Altogether, but little important sanitary work was performed during the year.

Climate.

The mean maximum temperature of the year at Tower Hill Observatory was 87·8, rather below the average of the previous nine years, while the mean minimum was 74·4, which is somewhat above the average.

The rainfall at 127·40 inches was greater than that of the two previous years but less than that recorded for any other year since 1895. The rainfall at Hill Station was 165·06 inches, which was greater than that of the three previous years. The average rainfall registered at Tower Hill Observatory is 146·6 inches for the last fourteen years and 165·6 inches for the last twenty years.

The temperature varied little throughout the year. February, March, and April were the hottest months, and July and August the coolest. The rainy season is from May to September inclusive.

The prevailing direction of the wind is south-westerly. At the beginning and end of the rainy season tornadoes occur, but rarely do much damage.

The subjoined table gives the observations taken in 1915 at certain out-stations:—

Station.	Mean Air Temperature in shade.		Total Rainfall.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	
			Inches.
Batkanu	88·51	70·47	115·55
Bo	82·33	70·30	114·83
Bonthe	85·39	72·96	192·21
Daru	90·50	67·78	97·01
Kaballa	88·08	63·91	102·07
Kissy	88·63	71·91	151·23
Moyamba	90·33	71·12	99·44

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The falling off in postal business which commenced on the outbreak of war continued throughout the year, decreases being shown in all the principal branches.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 51. Savings bank business was transacted at 11 of these, money order business at 28, and postal order business at 40.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,618,921, as compared with 1,838,706 in 1914. This total was made up as follows:—

	Letters, Postcards, and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	349,550	5,888	16,014	1,570
Despatched to United Kingdom	181,433	19,296	1,922	177
Received from West African Colonies ..	134,055	13,500	6,045	21
Despatched to West African Colonies ..	153,857	8,694	2,622	30
Internal	673,367	35,312	15,568	—

The money order transactions numbered 8,953, and amounted to £115,559, as compared with 10,325, valued at £131,807, in the previous year.

Money Orders.	1914.		1915.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom	422	2,422	472	3,378
Despatched to United Kingdom	2,728	29,707	2,131	23,202
Received from West African Colonies ..	484	5,425	408	4,099
Despatched to West African Colonies ..	587	6,835	544	6,473
Internal	6,104	87,418	5,398	78,407
Total	10,325	131,807	8,953	115,559

The postal order issues numbered 51,882, valued at £34,711; the orders paid totalled 46,018, and amounted to £32,738. The issues for the preceding year were 61,092, amounting to £40,600, while the payments numbered 50,947, valued at £36,384.

The postal revenue amounted to £7,473, which shows a decrease of £2,309, as compared with the figures for 1914. Customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £2,682, an increase of £367 on the figures for the previous year, while the value of stamps sold in connection with Inland Revenue services amounted to £2,606.

The expenditure amounted to £13,023, an increase of £977 when compared with the figures for the previous year.

The only non-military land telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. The head office is at Water Street, Freetown, and a combined telegraph and telephone service is in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There are two important transmitting centres, (1) at Boia, 64½ miles, and (2) at Bo, 136 miles, up the line; also two sub-transmitting stations—one at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to Port Lokko and Mabanta, and the other at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch through Serabu and Sengema to Bendu, a distance of 71½ miles. The telegraph line from Sengema to Pujehun, a distance of 47 miles, was completed during 1915.

There is a telegraph between Boia and Makump, and a telephone service from Makump to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line of railway.

The Railway Department has under its control over 1,000 miles of electrical wiring.

The Public Telephone Exchange in Freetown, which was commenced in 1914, was not completed during the year under review, owing to delay in obtaining materials from England. A new switch-board was, however, erected, which establishes communication with the military exchange.

Telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown. The telegraph rate between England and Sierra Leone is 3*s.* 2*d.* a word, and the deferred rate system at half cost is also in operation.

There is a wireless station at Freetown under the control of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

The revenue derived from the Railway Telegraph Department in 1915 was £2,230, as compared with £2,393, in 1914.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands on the 30th November. Up to the end of the year, however, he had not left the Colony. Mr. R. J. Wiliknson, C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements, has succeeded him as Governor of Sierra Leone.

The Prize Court, which commenced its sittings in 1914, continued to sit during the year. This is the only Prize Court on the West Coast of Africa.

Railway.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street Terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Kamabai, a distance of 104 miles. Owing to stringency of funds, it is not proposed at present to extend the line any further.

A mountain line, 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. This station stands about 800 feet above sea level. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government wharf, the Government Quarry (Public Works Department), and the Recreation Ground and Ascension Town Cemetery.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations, flag stations, and stopping places is 56. The total mileage open up to the 31st December, 1915, was 317 miles, exclusive of sidings.

The earnings of the line amounted to £145,125 and the working expenses to £106,747, as compared with £143,250 and £100,154, respectively, in 1914. The balance of earnings over working expenses was therefore £38,378, which represents 2·54 per cent. of the total capital expenditure.

The allocation of working expenditure was as follows :—

	£
Way and Works	33,947
Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	42,069
Traffic	18,866
General	11,568
Telephone Exchange	297
Total.. ..	£106,747

	1914.	1915.
Total number of passengers ..	468,032	467,594
Tonnage of goods	51,665	56,118
Train miles	353,811	376,147

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Receipts per train mile ..	8	1	7	9

Working expenses per open and train mile :—

	1914.			1915.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Per open mile ..	326	15	4	337	16	1
Per train mile ..		5	8		5	8

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotive engines, 98 coaching vehicles, and 362 goods vehicles, including two breakdown vans and two sand wagons, in addition to a travelling crane.

Roads.

Although the roads in the Protectorate were placed under the supervision of a separate Department in 1913, the maintenance of the third class roads is still under the control of the District Commissioners, the Chiefs being responsible for keeping the roads within their respective chiefdoms clean and in good order. The chiefs also supply the greater part of the unskilled labour required in the maintenance, improvement, and construction of first and second class roads, while the skilled labour, gangers, tools, and materials are furnished by the Government. None of the Protectorate roads are metalled.

Among the useful work performed during the year under review by the Protectorate Roads Department, that of constructing feeder roads to the railway takes first place. The road running from Moyamba in a south-westerly direction to Sembehun, and that running from Pendembu, the terminus of the railway, in a north-westerly direction to Kanre-Lahun, were brought near to completion. Satisfactory progress was also made on the roads between Bo and Pujehun and between Lago and Panjuma in the Railway District.

The Pendembu-Kanre Lahun road is especially important as it forms the main artery for trade with the French Kissis, and a large quantity of produce is already brought along it. It is so constructed as to permit of the introduction of mechanical transport, and various firms have already secured trading sites at Kanre Lahun.

Public Works.

During the year the buildings of the new Law Courts were completed, at a total cost of about £48,000. The opening ceremony, which took place on the 5th of January, 1916, was the last public act performed by the Governor, Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., before his final departure from the Colony.

Two new bungalows were erected at Hill Station, one for the District Commissioner at Port Lokko, and two for the Circuit Judge and Crown Prosecutor at Moyamba. All these quarters are of concrete.

A new rest house in Freetown for the use of Protectorate officials, consisting of a large two storeyed building of concrete block construction with concrete floors and corrugated iron roof, and including both married and single quarters, was completed during the year.

A concrete block rest house was also completed at Moyamba.

Work was continued throughout the year on the Freetown Waterworks Extension. The new pipe line, the laying of which was undertaken in order to supplement the Freetown water supply by bringing water from the Babadori Valley to the Tower Hill Reservoir by means of gravitation, was completed, and the new supply became available in February, 1915. It is anticipated that the waterworks scheme will be completed during the present year by the extension of the Tower Hill Reservoir and the erection of a pumping station.

In the early part of the year a considerable amount of work was done in connection with the new export wharf which it is proposed to build at Fourah Bay. Owing, however, to the stringency of the liquid assets of the Colony, this portion of the harbour works was temporarily closed down in August. It is anticipated that the wharf, when completed, will not only have far reaching effects on the commerce of the Colony, but will also cause a great change in the commercial centre of gravity in Freetown.

Work was continued on the extension of the existing jetties.

In addition to the works enumerated above, various minor works were undertaken, including improvements to the streets and drains of Freetown, the construction of a new gaol at Kaballa, and the provision of a secure storage place for kerosene on the Government wharf.

Owing to the lack of funds, work on the new Government House at Hill Station and on the new Hospital in Freetown was curtailed in the earlier portion of the year.

General.

In January, 1915, the entire Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force, except a nucleus left behind for recruiting purposes, was sent on active service to the Cameroons, where it remained throughout the year. The despatch of the whole battalion was only rendered possible by the settled state of the Protectorate and the law-abiding nature of both chiefs and people. The loyalty of the chiefs has been manifested, not only by their co-operation with the District Commissioners in policing and maintaining peace in their various chiefdoms, but also by the readiness with which they have recruited carriers and provided rice for the Cameroons expedition.

It is with deep regret that the death while on active service, of Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. Newstead, the officer in command of the Sierra Leone Battalion, has to be recorded. His place was filled by Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. N. Hastings, D.S.O.

The Colony has also to mourn the death of Captain F. N. Le Mesurier, Second Class District Commissioner, and Major H. W. G. Meyer-Griffith, Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary to Sir Edward Merewether, one of whom was killed in France and the other in the Cameroons.

It is a matter of extreme gratification that the Colony, though far removed from all the scenes of warlike operations, has been able to contribute in a small way towards adding one more German possession to the list of those already conquered. Several civilian officers of the Sierra Leone Government served with the expedition, and that more did not do so cannot be attributed to lack of willingness on the part of those who remained behind. The services of Dr. E. F. Whitehead, W.A.M.S., who was attached as a staff officer to the Director of Medical Services, were very favourably commented on by General Dobell, while the names of Mr. V. M. Turner and Mr. E. G. Luke, native dispensers, were brought to the notice of the Governor, the former for showing gallantry and devotion to the wounded in the field, and the latter for continuous good service in the field until he was invalided.

At a moment when the economic conditions of practically the whole world have been swept into chaos by the hurricane which has burst upon them, it is impossible to penetrate the clouds which enshroud the destinies of this Colony. As, however, trade was chiefly affected by the shortage of shipping, and as both the productivity of the Colony and the demand for its products have been well maintained, there is every reason to believe that the storm will pass without inflicting any permanent injury upon its prosperity.

A. C. HOLLIS,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
22nd June, 1916.

APPENDIX.

Statement showing the Importations of Spirits during the Five Years ended 31st December, 1915.*

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.
		£	£			
1911 ..	457,911	78,144	120,736	From the 14th of August, 1908, 5*s.* the Imperial gallon or part thereof not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of 1*d.* for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·01 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	—
1912 ..	626,061	89,590	160,543	As above till the 4th of March, 1912. From that date 5*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty, 4*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·29 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	288,022
1913 ..	632,087	90,729	167,491	As above till the 9th of June, 1913. From that date 6*s.* 3*d.* the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1½d. per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty, 5*s.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 5·18 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	275,464
1914 ..	322,836	46,852	89,676	As above	The value of spirit imports amounted to 3·26 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	134,909
1915 ..	295,489	56,075	91,588	As above till the 21st of July, 1915. From that date 7*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon, and for every degree below such strength a reduction of 1½*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 6*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 4·47 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.	128,485

---

* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	"
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	"
881	East Africa Protectorate	"
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"
887	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1916.

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No. 939.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 888.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1917.

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APPENDIX SHOWING THE IMPORTATIONS OF SPIRITS, 1912–1916.

A SKETCH MAP will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 851. [Cd. 7622–42.]

No. 939.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 888.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECTERARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
26th September, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1916, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. E. Evelyn, I.S.O.

I have, etc.,

R. J. WILKINSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
W. H. Long, M.P.
&c., &c., &c.

(C411) Wt. 47019/1099. 1,000 & 90. 11.17. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The Revenue for 1916, including £11 10*s.* 0*d.* derived from the sale of Crown Lands, was £551,106, as compared with £504,425 in the preceding year.

The increase of £46,681 was due to augmentation in the Customs Tariff which came into force at the commencement of the year.

The total revenue for the five years 1912 to 1916 was as follows:—

Year.	£
1912	559,855
1913	618,383
1914	675,689
1915	504,425
1916	551,106

By rigorous retrenchment the expenditure was further reduced by a sum of £13,831, as compared with that of the preceding year, notwithstanding the fact that, owing to the absence of the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force, in the Cameroons, a considerable portion of the pay due to the rank and file for 1915 was charged to expenditure during the year under review.

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £18,166, whereas the previous year showed an excess expenditure of £42,346.

The total expenditure for the years 1912 to 1916 was as follows:—

Year.	£
1912	524,417
1913	622,439
1914	680,146
1915	546,771
1916	532,940

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works chargeable to loan funds was £23,560, of which £21,090 was spent on Freetown Harbour Works and £2,470 on the Railway Extension.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 issued on the 30th of December, 1913, amounted to £942,827, while the total expenditure incurred up to the end of 1916 amounted to £906,966, leaving a balance of £35,861 still unexpended. This balance is inadequate to complete the export wharf.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £246,823, of which £149,961 represents the cost price of securities held by the Crown Agents on account of surplus funds. On the 31st of December, 1916, the market value of these securities amounted to £100,382. The assets include unallocated stores in the Railway, Public Works, and Railway Extension Departments to the value of

£93,879. To the excess of assets, detailed above, should be added the sum of £29,166 expended on Freetown Waterworks, which will ultimately be reimbursed to general revenue.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,730,048, which is made up as follows :—

	£
4 per cent. Ten-year Convertible Bonds ..	200
3½ ,, ,, Inscribed Stock 1929–1954 ..	729,848
4 ,, ,, Inscribed Stock 1938–1963 ..	1,000,000
Total	£1,730,048

The amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund on account of the 3½ per cent. stock on the 31st December, 1916, was £81,028.

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, amounted to £1,649,020 at the close of the year.

Currency.

In addition to the imperial coinage and the West African coinage, the five-franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland are legal tender in Sierra Leone, the value of each being fixed at 3*s.* 10½*d.* The economic disadvantages of a system which permits foreign coins to circulate as legal tender at a fixed rate of exchange have been fully demonstrated since the outbreak of war. Although in Sierra Leone the value of a five-franc piece is fixed at 3*s.* 10½*d.*, the actual value of the French coin, based upon the current rate of exchange, fell during 1916 to 3*s.* 5½*d.* with the inevitable results. It was therefore found expedient to prohibit the importation of the five-franc piece of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland.

In addition to the above coinage, the currency notes for £1 and 10*s.* issued in the United Kingdom under the Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1914, are also legal tender in the Colony and Protectorate. Of these, notes to the value of £18,500 were withdrawn during the year under review, leaving notes valued at £6,500 still in circulation. This form of paper currency was supplemented during the year by the introduction of West African Currency Notes, issued in Nigeria, in denominations of £1 and 10*s.* to the value of £6,000. Although not legal tender in Sierra Leone, the Government guarantees to accept the Nigerian notes in payment of dues, and arrangements have been made with the Bank of British West Africa by which they are redeemable at the Bank at face value, except in cases where they are clearly being used in large quantities as a form of remittance.

General.

Since the outbreak of war in 1914 there has been a marked depreciation in the capital value of the securities held by the Colony. The loans issued by the Imperial Government for the prosecution of the war have had the effect of depressing gilt-edged securities to a considerable extent, and it is improbable that any revival will take place for several years to come.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1916, amounted to £4,160. The revenue collected during the year from this source was £2,502, making a total of £6,682.

The expenditure on various works and improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected, amounted to £2,515, leaving a balance on the 31st of December of £4,147.

The Protectorate House Tax collected during the year amounted to £66,361, as compared with £65,089 in 1915.

At the end of the year the Public Officers Guarantee Fund amounted to £3,071, which has been over-invested by £23. This difference has been met by the collection of contributions for the current year.

Freetown Municipality.

The revenue of the Municipality during the financial year commencing on the 1st of November, 1915, and ending on the 31st of October, 1916, amounted to £9,970, while the expenditure during the same period was £11,765.

The following table shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Municipality for the five years 1912 to 1916 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1912	11,948	11.322
1913	12,414	9,851
1914	10,553	9,065
1915	11,639	10,854
1916	9,970	11,765

The Municipality has a debt of £30,448 2*s.* 11*d.*, advanced to it by the Government. Of this sum, £27,948 2*s.* 11*d.* is in respect of the Freetown Waterworks, and £2,500 a cemetery loan.

Towards the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the loan of £2,500 a sum of £709 9*s.* 9*d.* has been accumulated.

The sum of £279 9*s.* 8*d.* is paid annually to the Colonial Government as a proportion of the General Loan Sinking Fund contribution in respect of the Waterworks Loan. Nine annual contributions have been made, amounting in all to £2,515 7*s.* 0*d.*

In addition to the above liabilities the sum of £29,166 5*s.* 10*d.* had been expended by the Government on the Freetown Waterworks Extension up to the end of 1916. This sum will ultimately be treated as a further loan to the City Council.

The Port of Sherbro Fund.

The balance to the credit of this fund on the 1st of January, 1916 was £935. The receipts, including an annual contribution of £300 from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund, amounted to £824, which makes a total of £1,759. The expenditure amounted to £822, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £937.

Funds are thus available for carrying out improvements in the town of Bonthe and in other places within the limits of the Port of Sherbro.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year 1916, after the deduction of drawbacks and refunds, amounted to £278,344, which shows an increase over the corresponding return for 1915 of £42,862.

The increase of customs revenue was due chiefly to the revised tariff which came into operation at the beginning of the year and to the greatly increased value of goods imported which were liable to ad valorem duties.

An increase is shown in the revenue derived from ad valorem duties of £35,676, to which cotton goods contributed £19,108, although the quantity of this commodity imported was 112,501 yards less than in the preceding year.

The specific duties also showed an increase of £7,889. A loss of £37,164 under this head in respect of spirits was more than counterbalanced by an increase of £37,208 in respect of unmanufactured tobacco.

The gross revenue derived from import duties in the Port of Sherbro amounted to £45,121 and from those in Freetown to £226,016, as compared with £39,085 and £188,507, respectively, in the preceding year.

The revenue of the Port of Sherbro is little more than half of what it would be in ordinary times, while the mercantile trade of Mano Salija and Sulima, which was, until the outbreak of war, of some importance, is now dormant.

Imports.

The total values of the imports for the five years 1912–1916 are as follows:—

Year.	£
1912	1,424,864
1913	1,750,303
1914	1,405,049
1915	1,255,755
1916	1,290,827

Government imports again showed a decrease, amounting in value to £77,334, as compared with £125,082 in the preceding year and £196,770 in 1914.

The statistics given in the Appendix, analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony, show a decrease of £9,632 in the value, and of 141,011 gallons in the quantity, of spirits imported, as compared with the preceding year. A more detailed analysis shows that with one or two insignificant exceptions the decrease in quantity was shared by all kinds of wines and spirits. It was, however, most marked in the case of gin, ale, porter, and rum, large quantities of which were imported from Germany before the war.

The importation of specie amounted to £155,160 as compared with £175,724 in 1915, but, as pointed out in previous reports, owing to the fact that Freetown is a distributing centre, no increase or decrease in the importation of specie can be regarded as having any reliable bearing upon the economic condition of the Colony. A further factor now to be considered is the introduction of paper currency to which reference has already been made.

Exports.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1912–1916:—

Year.	£
1912	1,540,754
1913	1,731,252
1914	1,250,478
1915	1,254,621
1916	1,223,544

Of the return for 1916, £1,101,846 is represented by the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone, as compared with £852,751 in 1915. The quantities exported in most cases also showed a marked increase.

Specie was exported during the year to the value of £48,998, showing a decrease of £262,755, as compared with the return of the previous year.

SIERRA LEONE PRODUCTS.

Palm Kernels.—The exports during the year 1916 show an increase in volume of 5,692 tons and in value of £176,672. The total quantity exported, practically the whole of which went to the United Kingdom, amounted to 45,316 tons, valued at £680,705.

In 1913 Germany secured 43,016 tons of this commodity out of a total of 49,201 tons exported.

Palm Oil.—The average price of palm oil in the European market during the year 1916 was the highest ever recorded, and increases are shown in both the quantity and value of the oil exported. The volume of export was 557,751 gallons valued at £53,622, as compared with 481,576 gallons, valued at £45,671 in 1915. Of the total quantity exported, 406,516 gallons went out to the United Kingdom and 129,025 gallons to France. In 1913, out of a total of 617,089 gallons, 509,688 went to the United Kingdom, 69,786 to Germany and none to France.

Kola Nuts.—The export of kola nuts during 1915, as foreshadowed in the last Annual Report, showed an increase in quantity of 442 tons and in value of £67,314. The total quantity exported was 2,484 tons, valued at £302,720. The trade, which is mostly in the hands of Syrians, is almost entirely with other West African countries.

Ginger.—The average price of this commodity in the year 1916 was £36 a cwt., which is nearly double of the average price during the preceding four years. As a result, the quantity exported rose from 567 tons, valued at £8,091 in 1915 to 971 tons, valued at £25,814 in the year under review. Of the quantity exported, 669 tons went to the United States of America and 289 tons to the United Kingdom.

In prior years the United States have not imported this product from Sierra Leone.

Piassava.—In April and May £36 a ton was paid for Sierra Leone piassava in the European market. From then onwards the price decreased month by month until it had fallen in December to £26 a ton. Only 883 tons, valued at £18,998, were exported, as compared with 1,283 tons, worth £27,491, in 1915. 824 tons went to the United Kingdom and the remainder to France. Before the war Germany took the greater portion of this product.

Hides.—The number of hides exported is returned as 14,989, and their value as £6,396.

Rice.—Owing to a serious shortage in rice, the export of this commodity was restricted in order to conserve the food stocks.

Gum Copal.—The export of this product was prohibited for a period of five years by local Order in Council passed on the 30th of September, 1913.

SHIPPING.

796 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,553,312 tons entered and cleared, as compared with 1,146 ships, aggregating 1,635,119 tons the year before. This return includes 51 sailing vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 2,273 tons entered, and 50 of an aggregate tonnage of 3,016 tons, cleared. The corresponding figures for the previous year were:—Sailing ships entered, 232; aggregate tonnage, 8,746 tons; sailing ships cleared, 233; aggregate tonnage, 10,900 tons.

The decrease in aggregate tonnage is due to the effects of the War. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities many of the vessels calling at this Colony were German, and many of the British vessels which called were engaged in trade with German ports. The shortage of shipping due to the cessation of German oversea trade has been accentuated by the requirements of the Navy and Army, by abnormal shipping casualties, and by the internment of ships in enemy ports since the outbreak of war. German shipping entered in 1913 was over 27 per cent. of the total, while British shipping was 70 per cent. In 1916, British shipping was responsible for 91 per cent., Germany's share being, of course, nil.

The subjoined table gives a statement of the total shipping inwards for the years 1912 to 1916.

Year.	Number.	Tons.
1912	1,063	1,336,120
1913	993	1,463,602
1914	898	1,398,708
1915	569	809,405
1916	399	777,722

The number outwards was, of course, practically identical.

General Features of Trade.

The predominating factors during the year under review have again been the total absence of German trade and the shortage of shipping. This shortage placed a severe restriction on both the inward and outward trade of the Colony.

In order to sustain the revenue, it was again found necessary to revise the import duties. By the Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, 1915, a surtax of 25 per cent. had been levied on the existing 10 per cent. ad valorem duty as from the 21st of July, 1915. Orders in Council were passed on the 10th of March and 21st of July, 1915, increasing the specific duties, the general effect of which was to impose about 50 per cent. extra duty on ale, cigars, and tobacco, and about 25 per cent. extra on spirits and other articles.

The Customs Duties (Further) Amendment Ordinance, 1915 (No. 17 of 1915) abolished the surtax of 25 per cent. which had been imposed on the ad valorem duty by Ordinance No. 13 of 1915, increased this ad valorem duty from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., and imposed duties on foodstuffs (except upon ice and edible provisions kept on ice or in refrigerating chambers), bread, and flour.

Not only did the aggregate trade with the United Kingdom increase from £1,528,198 in 1915 to £1,660,555 in the year under review, but the proportion of trade with the United Kingdom to the total trade of the Colony advanced from 60·88 to 66 per cent. Before the war only about 40 per cent. of the trade was with the Mother Country.

The United Kingdom was responsible for 72·97 per cent. of the import trade and 58·74 per cent. of the export trade, as compared with 69·35 per cent. and 52·39 per cent. in 1915.

After the trade with the United Kingdom that with other West African Countries came next in importance. The United States of America follows them on the list with an aggregate trade of £152,975, which is nearly three times the value of this trade in 1913. Exports to the United States, which in previous years have been negligible or non existent, rose in value in 1916 to £17,372, while the imports rose from £102,435 in 1915 to £135,603.

The development of commercial intercourse with the United States of America is attracting wide attention in commercial circles. It is anticipated that this trade will, if unrestricted, open up a wide market in the west for the native products of West Africa and may in time revolutionise the present direction of trade.

AGRICULTURE.

(a) *Experimental Farm.*

The headquarters of the Agricultural Department are at Jala, a village situated some six miles north of Mano, in the Ronietta District of the Protectorate. The Experimental Farm, which was opened in 1912, covers a total area of about 1,200 acres, and is divided into two parts by the Taia River, which winds through the estate and provides a perennial supply of water for the nurseries and gardens. A great variety of soil is met with. During the year the farm was visited by a number of chiefs and their followers, some of whom appeared to take a keen interest in the crops. They were supplied with fruit trees for planting in their towns.

Areas were opened up in 1913 for permanent plantations of cocoa, coffee, lime, and kola. During the year about twelve additional acres of laterite soil were planted with Para rubber, limes, coffee, cocoa, and kola. An arboretum of improved types of fruit trees was started for stock purposes.

Rice.—From the number of varieties on trial in the past, a few of the better types of swamp rice were selected for sowing in 1916. The chiefs who visited the farm averred astonishment at the excellence of the grain. It is intended to distribute the seed for planting in swamps and on alluvial flats on river banks where paddy cultivation is carried on.

Cotton.—Several varieties from the Gold Coast and the Northern Provinces of Nigeria were tested, but the yields were poor.

Yams.—This crop again grew well, the yield per acre being 5 tons, 5 cwt.

Maize.—By a process of seed selection a much improved sample of local maize has been obtained, the yield per acre being 1,155 lbs., while the Lagos variety only yielded 210 lbs. to the acre. The crop was sown at the end of September and harvested in the middle of January.

Groundnuts.—Although the crop in the Protectorate was reported to have failed generally, the groundnuts at the Experimental Farms gave satisfactory results. The crops sown on laterite soil yielded 732 lbs., while those on alluvial soil gave 885 lbs. of sound nuts per acre.

It was found that by planting the nuts on ridges, the crops were rendered less liable to disease.

(b) *General.*

The early advent of the rains again impeded the burning of bush for the rice farms. A serious shortage occurred in the later part of the year and rice rose to famine prices.

Owing to the better price offered for ginger than in 1915, the trade was more brisk.

The pepper market has again been very good, traders in the Protectorate offering from 6*d.* to 9*d.* a pound for chillies.

The natives in the Northern Sherbro District are still interested in the cultivation of cocoa. During the year under review, they were encouraged in their efforts by the price offered for beans, which ranged from 3*d.* to 6*d.* a pound.

Agricultural shows were held in the Colony, with success at Bonthe and at Waterloo.

Summary of work done by the Imperial Institute on behalf of the Colony

A large number of enquiries on the subject of the cultivation of rubber, coffee, the oil palm, palm oil, palm fibre, oilseeds, gum copal, and forest products were dealt with by the Imperial Institute.

A sample of native prepared cocoa beans proved on chemical examination to be of normal composition, but the cocoa had been incompletely fermented and possessed a rather harsh flavour. It was valued in London at 61*s.* and in Liverpool at 59*s.* per cwt. at a time when Accra cocoa stood at 59*s.* per cwt.

A sample of *Pentadesma butyracea* kernels was found to yield 36·6 per cent. of pale yellow fat from kernels containing 12·4 per cent. of moisture; if shipped in commercial quantities and in good dry condition, these kernels were reported to be readily saleable in the United Kindgom. In normal times it was estimated that they would realise from £8 to £10 per ton in Liverpool (*i.e.* somewhat less than shea nuts) with which they would compete and which sell at a slightly better price on account of their higher yield of fat.

The Colony is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a Court containing exhibits illustrating its resources and industries.

The gratitude of the Colony is due to the Imperial Institute for the reliable services which it has rendered.

Forestry.

The Peninsula Reserve was definitely established early in the year, but owing to the shortage of funds it was not found possible to do any planting or felling.

The sowing and planting up of old farm sites was continued on the Kassewe Hills Reserve; an area of about 350 acres was cleared of undergrowth and planted with gum copal.

The demarcation of about 35 square miles of the proposed Kambui Hills Reserve near Kennema was completed during the first half of the year, but, owing to shortage of staff, no further steps were taken. It is anticipated that the reservation of forest on these hills will ensure a constant supply of water, fuel, and timber for building purposes to the towns and villages adjacent to the boundary.

Game.

The following were reported shot by holders of licences during 1916:—

2 elephants, 5 buffaloes, 14 water-bucks, 10 harnessed antelopes, 7 duiker, 17 cobus cob, and 2 wart hogs.

The chief areas for game are in the Karene and Koinadugu Districts of the Protectorate.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed in 1916, among the more important of which were the following:—

The European and Asiatic Passengers Ordinance, which introduces a system of registration to secure the accuracy of the statistics of the European and Asiatic population in the Colony and Protectorate.

The Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers) Ordinance, which provides for the extension of the restrictions relating to trading with the enemy to persons not resident or carrying on business in enemy territory.

The Customs Exportation Restriction Ordinance, which provides for the more effective control of exports.

The marriage of British Subjects (Facilities) Ordinance, which facilitates marriages between British subjects resident in the Colony or Protectorate and British subjects resident in the United Kingdom.

The Coin Import and Export Ordinance, which provides for the regulation of the import and export of coin into and from the Colony and Protectorate.

The Trading with the Enemy (Custodian) Ordinance, which provides for the appointment of a Custodian of Enemy Property and for the registration of property and debts.

The British Nationality and Status of Aliens (Fees) Ordinance, which provides for the collection of fees and the registration of documents under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914.

The Marine Discipline (Transports) Ordinance, which provides for the discipline of seamen engaged to serve on board Admiralty transports.

The following local Orders in Council passed during the year are worthy of notice:—

Order in Council No. 10, passed under the provisions of the Customs Duties Ordinance 1909, by which gifts to British troops on active service in the Colonies are exempted from the payment of Customs duty.

Order in Council No. 13, passed under the provisions of the Coin Import and Export Ordinance, 1916, mentioned above, by which the importation of the five franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland into the Colony and Protectorate was prohibited.

In consequence of the War a number of Proclamations were issued, including provisions which revised the maximum prices imposed in the Colony, and restricted the export of certain commodities.

By Royal Orders in Council of the 30th of March, 1916, the Colonial Probates Act of 1892 was applied to the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of:—

(*a*) Elementary Mission Schools;
(*b*) The Government Model School;
(*c*) The Industrial or Trade Schools;
(*d*) Secondary Schools;
(*e*) Government Mohammedan Elementary Schools;
(*f*) The Diocesan Technical School;
(*g*) Fourah Bay College (University of Durham).

Elementary Mission Schools derive their revenue from Government grants, school fees, society grants, and voluntary contributions.

The number of elementary mission schools in the Colony is 107, of which 97 are assisted by the Government.

The distribution of the elementary mission schools in the Colony among the several denominations is as follows:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	44	3,215	2,386
Wesleyan Methodist	25	2,143	1,417
United Methodist..	11	714	447
Roman Catholic	11	906	633
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion ..	10	485	338
African Methodist Episcopal	2	131	118
United Brethren in Christ	2	155	48
Seventh Day Adventist	2	40	33
Total	107	7,789	5,420

Compared with the previous year, there is a decrease of 5 in the number of schools, and increases of 784 in the roll number and of 660 in the average attendance.

The total income from all sources of the 97 assisted elementary schools was £8,108, of which school fees amounted to £1,087. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,569. The total expenditure was £6,948.

The Education Code, 1916, deals with Elementary, Intermediate, and Secondary Schools. In Elementary and Intermediate Schools, English, arithmetic, geography, and hygiene and sanitation are obligatory subjects; handwork, object lessons and nature study, history, physical exercises, and singing are optional. The Secondary Schools organise Elementary and Intermediate Classes, in which elementary mathematics, Latin, and French are taught as optional subjects.

The classification of schools in the Colony and Protectorate under the New Code is now proceeding, but the figures are not yet available. Some statement is, however, possible on the schools in the Colony.

Progress has been made in the teaching of English subjects, though the composition of simple, grammatical English is still a rare attainment. Arithmetic is still taught mechanically in most schools, and unintelligent methods characterise the teaching of geography. Hygiene and sanitation, however, are now taught in all schools and are favoured subjects.

Most of the teachers are untrained and many are too prone to be content with stagnation at the present rates of salary.

The enrolment and attendance at the Government Model School were as follows:—

Roll.	Average attendance.
306	232

This institution, designed as a higher-grade elementary school, has made such progress in the last 3 years that it now undertakes work up to the Cambridge Senior Local Standard. The staff consists of three Europeans (Principal, Vice-Principal, and Instructress), and eleven natives (seven male and four female teachers); among these are included a manual training Assistant and an Arabic master. Members of the staff are employed in the training of a few student-teachers.

There are two Industrial schools in the Colony, one at Mobe in the Northern Sherbro District (Roman Catholic) and the other at Waterloo in the Headquarters District (Seventh Day Adventist). The former is a grant-aided institution.

The enrolment and attendance were as follows:—

	Enrolment.	Average attendance.
Mobe (Boarding school)	56	56
Waterloo	40	No return.

The total amount of grants earned by Mobe school was £133. The town of Bonthe, Sherbro District, through which in normal times one-fifth of the trade of the Colony passes, recruits its skilled craftsmen mainly from this institution. While Mobe deals with Mendis and Sherbros, tribes of the Protectorate, Waterloo deals with Sierra Leoneans, natives of the Colony.

There are thirteen secondary schools in the Colony, of which eight are missionary and five proprietary. The total enrolment was 1,285, and the average attendance 1,050. Missionary schools may now be assisted by the Government under the Education Code, 1916. Four were inspected during the year and provisionally classified. It is anticipated that most of them will desire recognition in 1918.

There are five Mohammedan schools or Madrasas for boys and girls; the roll number was 656 and the average attendance 451, as compared with 655 and 411 in the previous year. Over a third of the children belong to the tribes of the Protectorate and consist mainly of Mandingoes, Temnes, Susus, and Fulahs. The subjects taught are the same as those prescribed by the Code for assisted Elementary schools, with the addition of Arabic. No fees are charged.

The Mohammedan community continued to show their appreciation of the advantages afforded by the Government. In the year under review the sum of £363 19*s.* 1*d.*, as compared with £246 16*s.* 3*d.* in the previous year, was contributed to the school funds; this money includes the purchase money of land and material for new buildings.

The estimated cost of the building of the Madrasa Islamia, still in progress, was greatly exceeded owing to additional alterations which were found necessary, and at the end of the year under review the total expenditure reached the sum of £510. It is expected that the completed building will cost about £700.

Technical Education.

The total number of students on the roll of the Diocesan Technical School reached 40, as against 30 in 1915 and 20 in 1914. These are drawn from many sources, including the leading schools in the Colony.

The school aims at imparting sound instruction in the theory and practice of the building trades and kindred subjects.

The upkeep involves an annual expenditure of about £500, which is met by private subscriptions, chiefly in England, sale of work and pupils' fees, and partly by a Government grant.

By the bequest of the late Dr. J. A. B. Horton, eight scholarships of £10 each are now tenable at the school, giving free education. They are for two years and may be renewed for a third on the recommendation of the headmaster. There are now eight Horton Scholars and one scholar supported by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only University College in West Africa.

The average number of students keeping term was: in 1914, 18; in 1915, 15; in 1916, 21.

Ten students matriculated during the year, while three completed all their examinations for the B.A. degree.

Protectorate Schools.

There were at the end of the year 123 pupils on the roll of the Government school at Bo for the sons and nominees of chiefs, as compared with 113 at the end of 1915.

The school fees amounted to £866, while the total cost of maintenance was £3,709. The balance of £2,843 was met from general revenue.

Towards the end of the year the restrictions hitherto placed upon the employment of ex-pupils in the Government service were removed. Nine pupils entered for the Civil Service Entrance Examination, eight of whom passed taking the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 13th places.

The elementary day school opened at Bumpe in the Railway District under the direction of the Principal of the Bo School on the 15th of February, 1915, continued to be a success. The number of pupils enrolled was 70, which is as many as the school will accommodate. The average attendance was 63, a condition of affairs which is highly satisfactory considering that many of the children come from outlying parts of the chiefdom and have to go home occasionally in order to procure supplies of food.

The interest which the chief and headmen continued to show in the welfare of this institution was proved by the fact that they voluntarily and without remuneration improved its accommodation.

The sum of £140 was expended on the school during 1916 by the Government.

Forty-nine non-Government schools, with the total of 1,812 names on the rolls, were inspected and reported on, some of which, especially among the boarding schools, were found to be satisfactory. On the whole, however, these schools were so weak that it is questionable whether the time spent on inspection is not wasted.

As a result of the inspections, the sum of £593 was awarded as grants in aid, of which £373 went to the boarding schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Hospitals.

In 1916 the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries amounted to a total of 49,368 out-patients and in-patients, as compared with 50,513 in the preceding year.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,096 individuals were treated as in-patients and 8,749 as out-patients, as compared with 1,136 and 8,181, respectively, in 1915.

The number of operations performed was only 192. 174 of these operations were successful, while 12 patients died. Six cases still remained under treatment on the last day of the year.

The decrease in the number of operations was due to a shortage in medical officers.

At the Lunatic Asylum at Kissy there was a total of 202 patients, 65 of whom were admitted during the year. Of the 202 patients under treatment, 31 were relieved and discharged and 24 died, leaving a total of 147 at the end of the year.

At the Female Incurable Hospital there were 24 patients at the beginning of the year and 75 were admitted. Of these, 42 were relieved and discharged and 26 died. On the 31st of December 31 patients remained.

At the Male Incurable Hospital there were 30 patients at the beginning of the year. During the year 188 were admitted, 99 were discharged (as cured) and 68 died.

At the Leper Asylum there were two patients at the beginning of the year and 11 were admitted. Of these 2 died and 8 absconded.

Altogether 110 cases of small-pox, 112 of chicken pox, and 5 of measles, were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year.

European Nursing Home.

There were 72 admissions during the year. Of these, 48 were officials and 24 belonged to the mercantile and shipping communities. 31 of the cases were malaria.

Savings Bank.

The falling off in Savings Bank business, which commenced on the outbreak of the War, continued throughout the year.

The deposits numbered 10,366 and amounted to £52,084, as compared with 10,453 and £55,652 in 1915. The withdrawals totalled 8,330 and amounted to £57,115, showing a decrease of 694 in number and of £3,552 in value in comparison with the figures for 1915.

The average of each deposit was £5 0*s.* 5*d.* and of each withdrawal £6 17*s.* 1*d.*, as against £5 6*s.* 5*d.* and £6 15*s.* 9*d.* respectively, in 1915.

1,592 accounts were opened during the year and 1,667 were closed.

At the end of the year the names of 6,531 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £106,977. The average value of each account at the close of the year was £16 7*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £16 11*s.* 8*d.* in 1915. £2,460 was credited as interest to depositors, which is less by £183 than the amount allowed in the preceding year.

The total sum invested amounted to £112,165, but at the end of 1916, the value of the investments, owing to depreciation, was only £82,975.

The dividends amounted to £3,840 as compared with £3,857 for 1915, while the profits were £640 as against £602 in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is employed only in the Colony, police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of court messengers under the administration of the District Commissioners.

At the end of the year under review the authorised strength of the police force consisted of a total of all ranks of 285, including three European Officers—the Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners of Police. The discipline was again well maintained. The health of the force continued to be good.

1,495 cases were reported to the police and 1,779 persons were arrested. Of the persons arrested 72 per cent. were convicted, the remainder being discharged. An increase occurred in the number of cases of common assault, larceny, receiving stolen property, and assaulting, resisting and obstructing the police, while a decrease is shown in the return of drunkenness.

There were during the year two cases of murder and fourteen of wounding.

Fire Brigade.

There is in Freetown a voluntary fire brigade which is under the control of the Municipality. In serious fires the military, as well as the police, are always prepared to render assistance.

There were, fortunately, no serious outbreaks of fire during the year.

Prisons.

A new prison was appointed at Makene in the Karene District, as from the 23rd of March, 1916.

The total number of prisoners received into Freetown Prison was 1,311, as compared with 1,054 in 1915. The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 262, as against 259 in the preceding year.

Although still high, the death-rate was lower than in 1915. Of 30 deaths which occurred, 15 were due to amoebic dysentery, and in all of these cases the patient had contracted the disease before admission to the gaol. Of the prisoners received during the year, 300 were found on admission to be suffering from serious diseases, and, although the morbidity of the gaol has given anxiety in the past, after allowing for the fact that the criminal classes are largely recruited from among those who are debarred by debility or disease from seeking honest employment, one has been generally forced to the unpleasant conclusion that the health of the prisoners is a rough index to the general health of the community.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 64 convictions in that court during the year.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown 2,063 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 1,960 in 1915. These figures include 573 convictions for larceny as compared with 407 in 1915. The increase is attributed to the large number of carriers who returned in 1916 from the Cameroons, coupled with the distress caused by shortage of food during the later months of the year.

In the district Courts of the Colony, there were 343 summary convictions as against 302 in the preceding year. 125 of these were at Waterloo and 218 at Bonthe.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 104 convictions as compared with 95 in 1915; of these 3 were for murder.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 620 convictions, as compared with 713 in the preceding year.

The criminal statistics, especially of the Protectorate, are not a very reliable index to the amount of crime. Many cases are dealt with in the courts of the Paramount Chiefs and of these no return is made. The closer administration which will develop in course of time will undoubtedly tend to produce more reliable figures.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European and American residents was:

Officials	272
Military	597
Others	269
Total ..	1,138

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans due to climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate for the last ten years :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1907 ..	2	—	3	3	2	3	13
1908 ..	1	—	1	6	3	2	13
1909 ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	6
1910 ..	—	—	9	2	2	2	15
1911 ..	2	5	2	1	—	1	11
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16

Of the 16 deaths which occurred among the European community, 9 were among the Naval and Military and were classified as follows :— 1 fracture of skull, 2 sub-tertian malaria, 2 cerebral haemorrhage, 2 heart disease, 1 pneumonia, 1 heat apoplexy. One official died of dysentery.

Six were among the rest of the European community and were as follows :—2 malaria, 1 heart disease, 1 chronic dysentery, 1 chronic nephritis, 1 fever and nephritis.

The average number of resident European officials was 172, as against 158 in 1915. Among these there were 176 cases placed on the sick list for a total period of 1,297 days. The average number of days upon the sick list for each patient was 7·36 and the daily average on the sick list was 3·54. The percentage of deaths to the total number of residents was ·36 and to the average number ·58. While recognizing that these figures are satisfactory, it should be remembered that the European official community is composed entirely of men in the prime of life and selected as constitutionally fit for service in the tropics.

Eight officials were invalided from the following causes, as against 7 in the preceding year :—Anaemia, cirrhosis of the liver, ischio-rectal abscess, pelvic cellulitis, chronic enteritis, appendicitis, asthma and ulcer, and blackwater fever.

The percentage of invalidings to the total number of residents was 2·94.

Cline Town.

The average number of Europeans at this station was 44 Altogether 56 cases were placed on the sick list for a total of 295 days. Among officials, 520 cases were treated at the dispensary and of the general public there were 2,771 cases with 2,278 subsequent attendances.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 81, as compared with 77 during 1915. Of these 46 were officials, 3 missionaries, 4 military officers, and 28 non-officials. The families of military and civil officers are included in the last number. On the whole the health was good, but three Europeans, two of whom were ladies, contracted small pox.

Population of the Colony (as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony was returned at the last decennial census, in 1911, as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths recorded during 1916 was 1,976 or 26 per 1,000, and of births 1,421 or 19 per 1,000, of the population.

The population of Freetown, according to the 1911 census, was 34,090; the births registered in 1916 numbered 706 and the deaths 1,058.

These figures show a birth-rate of 21 and a death-rate of 31 per 1,000 respectively.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last ten years are subjoined:—

1907	210
1908	222
1909	188
1910	214
1911	156
1912	195
1913	221
1914	234
1915	219
1916	218

Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in the Colony but not in the Protectorate. The excess of deaths over births registered in the Colony, which has been apparent in the returns for some years past, suggests that the population of the Colony is on the decrease. There is however, a constant influx into the Peninsula of natives from the Protectorate, and the figures given must in any case be accepted with caution as the present system of registration can be hardly described as effective. The next census, which is due in 1921, should throw some interesting light on this question.

It is impossible to give any valuable account of the chief causes of death, as medical certification of death is neither compulsory nor usual.

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10, according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate.

Mendis	442,524	Autocthonous and semi-autocthonous pagan groups.
Lokkos..	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis)	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	
Foulahs	11,500	Northern invading and Mohammedanizing groups.
Mandingoes	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Temnes	347,229	
Limbahs	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
	1,323,151	

General.

Small pox was prevalent in most parts of the Colony and Protectorate, but fortunately the type was not serious. Compulsory vaccination was introduced into some areas. Out of a total of 87,705 vaccinations reported as performed, 71,744 were successful and 6,743 were unsuccessful; the remainder were not observed. A system of training aborigines of the Protectorate to vaccinate among the people of their own tribes has been started, as strangers who undertake this work are regarded by the natives with distrust and suspicion.

108 cases of tuberculosis were treated, most of which were again of the pulmonary variety.

The returns of malaria show that 3,008 cases were treated as compared with 2,221 in 1915. An increase which occurred in the number of cases of benign tertian fever was probably due to association of carriers from this Colony with troops from the east during the Cameroons Expedition.

Sanitation.

Cavities have been found in large cotton trees in Freetown containing anything up to 130 gallons of water which constitute breeding places for stegomyia and other mosquitoes. The method adopted of dealing with these cavities is to cut channels for the water to flow out. The larger holes are then filled with rubble and cemented over.

Owing to the presence of small pox, on the 23rd of March, the city of Freetown, and on the 11th of April, the Police District of Freetown outside the city, were declared to be infected places under the Quarantine Ordinance, 1914. It was not found possible to remove these restrictions until the 10th of June and 22nd of July, respectively.

The number of summonses issued in mosquito larvae cases by the Freetown Police Court was 359; 305 convictions were obtained.

No evidence of any plague infection was discovered in any of the rats examined during the year.

By clearing of the bush peninsula on which stand the Cape Sierra Leone Lighthouse and Sanitary Station and by stripping the petioles from the palm trees, tsetse flies, which were formerly common, have been, at any rate for the time being, driven away from this area.

During the latter part of 1916 sanitary regulations under the Public Health (Protectorate) Ordinance, 1915, were brought into operation in Port Lokko, a town in the Karene District, and in Bo, Railway District.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary conditions of their chiefdoms has appeared to merit recognition.

Owing to the shortage of staff and of funds, sanitation was, generally speaking, confined during the year to ordinary routine and maintenance work.

Climate.

The mean maximum temperature at Tower Hill Observatory was 88·1, while the mean minimum was 73·8.

The rainfall at 149·21 inches was the greatest registered since 1907.

The temperature varies little throughout the year. The rainy season, which is the coolest period of the year, is from May to September inclusive.

The prevailing direction of the wind is southwesterly. At the beginning and end of the rainy season tornadoes occur, but rarely do much damage.

The subjoined table gives the observations taken in 1916 at certain out-stations :—

Station.	Mean Air Temperature in shade.		Total Rainfall.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	
	Degrees F.	Degrees F.	Inches.
Batkanu	90·31	69·94	137·84
Bo	88·53	68·76	114·157
Bonthe	85·6	59·00	145·03
Daru	87·7	68·8	100·61
Kaballa	88·77	63·7	75·28
Kissy	87·9	73·39	115·12
Hill Station	81·7	72·2	187·18
Moyamba	89·3	63·9	127·37

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal Services.

The falling off in postal business which commenced on the outbreak of war ceased during the year. The postal revenue amounted to £8,046, which shows an increase of £573 as compared with the figure for 1915. Owing to the increase in the Customs Tariff, to which reference has already been made, an increase is shown in the customs duties collected in respect of parcels, the revenue from this source amounting to £3,413 as compared with £2,682 in the preceding year.

The number of stamps sold in connexion with the inland revenue services amounted to £12,087.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 45. Savings bank business was transacted at 11 of these, money order business at 23, and postal order business at 36. Six agencies were closed, as so little business was found to be transacted at them that the expenditure incurred on their maintenance did not justify keeping them open.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,526,444, as compared with 1,661,886 in 1915.

The money order transactions numbered 9,698 and amounted to £132,270, as compared with 8,953, valued at £115,559 in the previous year.

The postal order issues numbered 49,736, valued at £32,952; the orders paid totalled 46,658, and amounted to £33,075. The issues for the preceding year were 51,882, amounting to £34,711, while the payments numbered 46,018 valued at £32,738.

Telegraph and Telephone Services.

The only non-military land telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. Telegraph and telephone services are in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There are two important transmitting centres at Boia, 64½ miles, and at Bo, 136 miles up the line; also two sub-transmitting stations—one at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to Port Lokko and the other at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch through Serabu and Sengema to Bendu, a distance of 71½ miles. There is a telegraph line from Sengema to Pujehun, a distance of 47 miles.

There are also telegraph and telephone services between Boia and Kamabai on the branch line.

The Railway Department has under its control over 1,100 miles of electrical wiring.

A public Telephone Exchange was opened during the year under review. Most of the Government Offices and the principal mercantile establishments, some of the bungalows at Hill Station, and the military exchange have been connected up.

Telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown. The telegraph rate between England and Sierra Leone is 3*s.* 2*d.* a word, and the deferred rate system at half cost is also in operation.

There is a wireless station at Freetown under the control of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

The revenue derived from the Railway Telegraph Department in 1916 was £2,418, as compared with £2,230 in 1915.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Mr. R. J. Wilkinson, C.M.G., succeeded Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., as Governor and arrived in the Colony on the 9th of March.

The Prize Court continued to sit.

Railway.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street Terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Kamabai, a distance of 104 miles, of which the section from Makene to Kamabai was opened for traffic early in the year under review.

A mountain line 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government Wharf, the Government Quarry (Public Works Department) and the Recreation Ground and Ascension Town Cemetery.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations and stopping places is 62. The total mileage opened up to the 31st December, 1915, was 338 miles, exclusive of sidings.

The earnings of the line amounted to £156,429 and the working expenses to £127,466, as compared with £146,151 and £107,190, respectively in 1915. These figures now include revenue from and expenditure on wharf cranes.

The allocation of working expenditure was as follows :—

	£
Way and Works	35,985
Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	59,993
Traffic	20,146
General	11,058
Telephone Exchange	284
Total	£127,466

	1915.	1916.
Total number of passengers ..	467,594	503,706
Tonnage of goods	56,118	54,570
Train miles	376,147	425,740

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Receipts per train mile ..	7	9	7	4

Working expenses per open and train mile :—

	1915.			1916.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Per open mile ..	339	4	2	377	2	5
Per train mile ..		5	8		6	0

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotive engines, 98 coaching vehicles, and 363 goods vehicles, including two breakdown vans and two sand wagons, in addition to a travelling crane.

Roads.

Although the roads in the Protectorate were placed under the supervision of a separate Department in 1913, the maintenance of the third class roads is still under the control of the District Commissioners, the Chiefs being responsible for keeping the roads within their respective chiefdoms clean and in good order. The chiefs also supply the greater part of the unskilled and unpaid labour required in the maintenance, improvement, and construction of first and second class roads, while the skilled labour, gangers, tools, and materials are furnished by the Government. None of the Protectorate roads are metalled.

During the year under review, the maintenance and construction of roads and bridges was rendered difficult owing to the need for economy and the restrictions placed on the export of materials from the United Kingdom.

Public Works.

On the 5th of January, 1916, the new Law Courts were opened by the late Governor, Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O. The foundation stone had been laid in 1910 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The buildings were completed during 1915, at a total cost of about £48,000.

Altogether throughout the year, owing to lack of funds and shortage of staff, practically no works of importance were undertaken.

General.

The Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force which had proceeded to the Cameroons on active service in January, 1915, returned to the Colony on the 27th of April in the year under review.

Fortunately the Colony has only to mourn the death of one of its civilian officers who joined the armed forces of the crown. Captain C. S. Vaudrey, Assistant Colonial Secretary, died of cholera during the year while on active service in Mesopotamia.

The year which has passed has not been one of stagnation, although the activities of the executive have been hampered by lack of funds, by the unavoidable difficulty and delay in obtaining stores from the United Kingdom, and by a shortage of staff.

Many of the younger European Officials are naturally anxious to take a more active part in the war than is possible in their present positions, and, if it were found possible to replace them by suitable men who are considered unfit for further military service, arrangements might be made to release a certain number for war work in addition to those who have already been spared.

The predominating factor which adversely affected the Colony last year was again a shortage of shipping, but there is no reason to doubt that when this is remedied, prosperous trading relations will be established not only with the European but also with the American markets on a larger and more prosperous scale than has hitherto proved possible.

E. E. Evelyn,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
24th September, 1917.

APPENDIX.

Statement showing the Importations of Spirits during the five years ended 31st December, 1916.*

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.
		£	£			
1912	626,061	89,590	160,543	From the 14th of August, 1908, to the 3rd of March, 1912, 5*s.* the Imperial Gallon or part thereof, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of 1*d.* for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum. From the 4th of March, 1912, 5*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 4*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 6·29 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.	288,022
1913	632,087	90,729	167,491	From the 4th of March, 1912, 5*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 4*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon. From the 9th of June, 1913, 6*s.* 3*d.* the Imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1¼*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 5*s.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 5·18 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	275,464

---

* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

APPENDIX—*cont.*

Statement showing the Importations of Spirits during the five years ended 31st December, 1916.*—*cont.*

Year.	Quantity In gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.
		£	£			
1914	322,836	46,852	89,676	From the 9th of June, 1913, 6*s.* 3*d.* the Imperial gallon,not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength are duction of 1½*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 5*s.* per Imperial gallon;	The value of spirit imports amounted to 3·26 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	134,909
1915	295,480	56,075	91,588	As above till the 21st of July, 1915. From that date 7*s.* 6*d.* the Imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½*d.* per Imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1½*d.* per Imperial gallon. Minimum duty 6*s.* 6*d.* per Imperial gallon.	The value of spirit imports amounted to 4·47 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.	128,485
1916	154,478	46,443	54,424	As above	The value of spirit imports amounted to 3·60 per cent. of the whole inward trade including specie.	70,281

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* The quantity actually taken into consumption is shown for each year.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
905	Straits Settlements	1915
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	„
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	„
913	Leeward Islands	„
914	Uganda	„
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	„
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	„
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	„
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	„
925	Zanzibar	„
926	Fiji	„
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	„
931	Gibraltar	„
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	„
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	„
938	Falklands	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 990.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 939.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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No. 990.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1917.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The Revenue for 1917, including £457 derived from the sale of Crown Lands, and £10,000 received from the City Council of Freetown in partial reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by the Government on the Water Works Extension, amounted to £546,449, as compared with £551,106 in the preceding year.

The shortage in revenue was due to the following causes:—

(*a*) The non-receipt of £18,500 as a reimbursement from the City Council, as the water authority for Freetown.
(*b*) A decline in the Customs receipts.
(*c*) A decline in the receipts from House Tax, Court fines, and Spirit Licences in the Protectorate.

The last two causes are directly attributable to war conditions.

The total revenue for the three years 1915 to 1917 is shown in the subjoined table:—

	£
1915	504,425
1916	551,106
1917	546,449

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £33,605, and the year ended with a cash balance of £19,684.

The total expenditure for the years 1915 to 1917 was as follows:—

Year.	£
1915	546,771
1916	532,940
1917	512,844

Loan Expenditure.

By the Public Loan Ordinance, 1913, the Governor was authorised to raise by loan a sum of £1,000,000 for the following purposes:—

	£
Redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan ..	518,000
Railway Extension	232,000
Harbour Works	250,000
Total	£1,000,000

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 851 [Cd. 7622–42].

(C551) Wt.1/155. 1,000 & 90. 5.19. B.& F.Ltd Gp.11/14

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 which was issued under the provisions of this Ordinance on the 30th of December 1913, amounted to £942,827, while the total expenditure incurred up to the end of 1917 amounted to £911,626, of which £308,435 was spent on railway extension, £108,626 on Freetown Harbour Works and £494,565 on the redemption of bonds.

There is thus a balance of £31,201 still unexpended.

Only £4,660, chargeable to loan funds, were expended during the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £280,428, of which £149,961 represents the cost price of securities held by the Crown Agents on account of surplus funds. On the 31st of December, 1917, the market value of these securities amounted to £104,235. The assets include unallocated stores in the Railway, Public Works, Railway Extension, and Prison Departments to the value of some £83,000. To the excess of assets detailed above, should be added the sum of £19,974 which still remains to be reimbursed to general revenue by the City Council, in repayment of the sum expended by the Government on Freetown Water Works Extension.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,730,048.

The amount standing to the credit of the sinking funds on the 31st of December, 1917, was £101,753.

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, amounted to £1,628,295 at the end of the year.

Currency.

In addition to the Imperial coinage and the West African silver coinage the five-franc pieces of France, Belgian, Italy, and Switzerland are legal tender in Sierra Leone, the value of each being fixed at 3*s*. 10½*d*. In 1916, however, it was found necessary, owing to the depreciation in value of the five-franc pieces of these countries, to prohibit their importation into the Colony and Protectorate.

The currency notes for £1 and 10*s*. issued in the United Kingdom under the Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1914, are also legal tender.

The currency was supplemented during the year by a further issue of West African Currency Notes. Although not legal tender in Sierra Leone, the Government guaranteed to accept these Nigerian notes in payment of dues, and they are redeemable at the Bank of British West Africa at face value.

The value of these notes issued to the Banks for circulation at the end of the year amounted to £14,500 and included a two-shilling denomination to the value of £250.

The Port of Sherbro Fund.

The balance to the credit of this fund on the 1st of January 1917, was £937. The receipts, including an annual contribution of £300 from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund, amounted to £1,050, which makes a total of £1,987. The expenditure amounted to £996, leaving a balance of £991 available for carrying out improvements in Bonthe and other places within the limits of the Port of Sherbro.

General.

Since the outbreak of war there has been a marked depreciation in the capital value of the securities held by the Colony. The various loans issued by the Imperial Government for the prosecution of the War have had the effect of depressing other gilt-edged securities paying a lower rate of interest.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January 1917, amounted to £4,147. The revenue collected during the year was £2,493, making a total of £6,640.

The expenditure on various works and improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected amounted to £1,936 leaving a balance of £4,704 at the close of the year.

At the end of the year the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund amounted to £3,133 which has been over-invested by £89.

Owing to the loss of revenue occasioned by the War, it was found necessary to enact legislation providing for the imposition of export duties on palm kernels, palm oil, and kola nuts as from the 1st of January, 1918.

Freetown Municipality.

Two distinct funds are under the administration of the Municipality of Freetown.

The City Fund.—The expenditure during the financial year commencing on the 1st of November 1916, and ending on the 31st of October 1917, amounted to £5,880, while, in spite of an increase in the rates from 4 to 5 per cent., the revenue for the same period was only £5,390.

This fund has a debt to the Government of £2,500. Up to the end of the year, the total contributions to the sinking fund amounted to £905 16*s.* 2*d.*

Water Works Fund.—The revenue derived from the waterworks for this period was £21,513, which shows a large increase over the revenue of all previous years. The increase was due entirely to the demands of shipping which amounted in value to £18,360. The working expenditure totalled £6,522. There was thus a profit on the year's working of £14,991.

The Municipality has a debt of £27,948 2*s.* 11*d.* advanced to it by the Government in connection with the Freetown Waterworks for repayment of which this fund is liable. Up to the end of the last financial year £2,934 11*s.* 6*d.* had been paid into the sinking fund in respect of this loan.

In addition to the above charges the Waterworks Fund is liable for the cost of the Malamah Extension amounting approximately to £30,000.

Profiting by the sound financial position of the fund, the Municipality, as mentioned at the beginning of the report, paid over to the Colonial Government the sum of £10,000 during the year. The total expenditure incurred by the fund amounted to £17,151, leaving a net cash balance of £4,362. Of this balance, £500 was paid as a donation to the Red Cross Fund.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year 1917, after the deduction of drawbacks and refunds, amounted to £263,585, which shows a decrease in comparison with the return for 1916 of £14,959.

An increase is shown in the revenue derived from *ad valorem* duties of £11,188. This increase is due entirely to the enhanced prices of goods imported, of which cotton goods are mainly responsible.

The specific duties, however, showed a decrease of £26,431. Of this decrease, £17,727 is due to a falling-off in the imports of spirits. Kerosene, unmanufactured tobacco, and sugar, were also, to a minor extent, responsible.

The gross revenue derived from import duties in the Port of Sherbro amounted to £35,639, and from those in Freetown to £220,263, as compared with £45,121 and £226,016, respectively, in the preceding year.

The trade of Bonthe and York Island has been irregular both in period and volume, since the outbreak of war, while that of Sulima and other small ports has practically ceased, but with the advent of peace, it is anticipated that the conditions at these ports will improve.

Imports.

The total values of the imports for the three years 1915–1917 are as follows:—

	£
1915	1,080,031
1916	1,135,667
1917	1,332,752

Commercial imports amounted in value to £1,288,499, as compared with £1,058,333 in 1916.

In spite of increased prices, Government imports again continued to show a decrease, amounting in value to £44,253 as compared with £77,334 in the preceding year and with £196,770 in 1914. This decrease was due to the closing down of practically all public works.

The statistics of the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony, show a decrease of 52,031 gallons in the quantity, and an increase of £1,080 in the value, of spirits imported, as compared with the figures for the preceding year. The decrease in the quantity of the spirits imported was due to the fact that the usual sources of supply of trade spirits have, owing to the War, been almost entirely cut off, while countries other than those which have hitherto been regarded as the home of their manufacture do not appear to have yet found an acceptable and satisfactory substitute. The trade in spirits, however, with the United States of America continued to increase, the quantity imported from that country in 1917 being more than double that of the previous year. If the present tendency is not checked by artificial restrictions, it is anticipated that in the course of time spirits supplied by the United States of America will take the place of those formerly supplied by Germany.

Exports.

The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the three years 1915–1917:—

	£
1915	942,868
1916	1,174,546
1917	1,497,995

Of the figure for 1917, £1,276,434 is represented by the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone, as compared with £1,101,846 in 1916. This increase was mainly due to the enhanced values of kola nuts, palm kernels, and palm oil, which are the chief domestic exports of the Colony.

SIERRA LEONE PRODUCTS.

Palm Kernels.—The exports during the year 1917 show an increase in volume of 12,704 tons and in value of £161,803. Of the total quantity exported, which amounted to 58,020 tons, 56,599 tons went to the United Kingdom and 1,380 tons to France. The kernels shipped in 1917 exceed those exported in any other year both in quantity and value.

The average price of kernels was about 10*s.* per ton in advance of the average price paid during the year 1916 but the margin of profits on which exporters had to work, was less.

The Imperial Government fixed the price of kernels, as from May 1917, at £26 a ton, which was estimated to give a fair profit to each section of the trade. Although this object was at first secured, owing to the increase of shipping and other expenses, it was found necessary by shippers to lower the price paid to the native producer. This had an adverse effect on the quantity brought to market. The native might, in ordinary circumstances, accept a price diminished by such a situation, but the increase amounting to from 200 to 300 per cent. which he has to pay for imported goods acts as a deterrent against production. Towards the end of the year these influences began to make themselves felt.

In view of the adverse factors which militate against trade in these abnormal times and of the fact that the native was getting less for kernels than in the days prior to the War, the condition of the kernel trade during 1917 was in many respects remarkable.

Palm Oil.—Only 543,183 gallons valued at £62,385 were exported as compared with 557,751 valued at £53,622 in 1916. The reduction in the quantity exported may be attributed to the consumption of increased quantities of palm oil for local purposes such as the manufacture of native soap owing to the high cost of similar imported articles during the War. The demand for the product was well maintained and the price sanctioned was, so far as can be judged, fair. Of the total quantity exported, 526,043 gallons went to the United Kingdom, 11,324 gallons to France, and 5,816 to other British West African possessions.

In 1913, out of a total of 617,089 gallons exported, 509,688 went to the United Kingdom, 69,786 to Germany and none to France.

Kola Nuts.—The exports of kola nuts during 1917 showed a decrease in quantity of 782 tons, but an increase in value of £18,407, as compared with the figures for the preceding year. The decrease in the quantity exported was due entirely to the poorness of the 1917 crop. The total exports amounted to 1,702 tons, valued at £321,127. The trade, which is mostly in the hands of Syrians, is confined almost entirely to other West African countries north of Sierra Leone. In 1917 these countries would have suffered from a shortage of this highly appreciated stimulant, had it not been for the supply of unwonted quantities from Grand Bassam. Even with this aid to the market, the price in October rose to the unprecedented height of £30 per measure of from 160 to 172 lb.

Ginger.—The average price per ton in 1917 was about £4 less than in the previous year. The high average price of £36 per cwt. which was offered in 1916 stimulated production. As a result 1,137 tons valued at £25,863 were exported in the year under review as compared with 971 tons valued at £25,814 in 1916. Of the quantity exported, 904 tons went to the United States of America, 224 tons to the United Kingdom, and the remaining 9 tons to Dakar and the Gambia.

Piassava.—Although the monthly average price paid for this commodity was £44 a ton and the price rose steadily until it reached £78 a ton in December, the quantity exported showed a further decline, only 471 tons valued at £8,300 being shipped as compared with 883 tons valued at £18,998 in the preceding year. This decline was due chiefly to the uncertainty and lack of shipping facilities at the Sherbro ports, as a result of which exporters became wary in buying, which in its turn discouraged the native from collecting and preparing as much of the product as he would otherwise have done.

Practically all the piassava exported from the Port of Sherbro comes from the Northern Sherbro District.

The whole of the quantity shipped went to the United Kingdom.

Hides.—The number of hides exported is returned as 9,167 and their value as £4,667, as compared with 14,989 valued at £6,396 in 1916.

Owing to the prohibition on the importation of hides into the United Kingdom, opportunities for shipment have been fewer and several exporters, in consequence, held large stocks throughout the year.

The actual dimensions of the trade in hides which is carried on by land with adjacent countries cannot be estimated as no statistics are available.

SHIPPING.

774 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,526,640 tons entered and cleared, as compared with 796 ships, aggregating 1,553,312 tons, the year before. This return includes 73 sailing vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 4,782 entered and 76 of an aggregate tonnage of 4,750 tons cleared. The corresponding figures from the previous year were:—

Sailing ships entered, 51; aggregate tonnage, 2,273 tons; sailing ships cleared, 50; aggregate tonnage, 3,016 tons.

The decrease in tonnage represents a difference of four or five steamers of the size of those engaged in regular trade with this Colony prior to the outbreak of hostilities. So far as the shipping which calls at Sierra Leone is concerned, the above represents the sole effect achieved by the intensified campaign of frightfulness on the sea which was announced early last year.

German shipping entered in 1913 was over 27 per cent. of the total while British shipping was 70 per cent. In the year under review British shipping was responsible for 93 per cent., whilst, needless to say, Germany's share was *nil*.

The subjoined table gives a statement of the total shipping inwards for the years 1915–1917.

Year.	Number.	Tons.
1915	569	809,405
1916	399	777,722
1917	386	764,248

The outward figures were practically identical.

General Features of Trade.

The predominating factors during the year under review have again been the total absence of German trade and the shortage of shipping; this latter condition placed a somewhat severe restriction on the commerce of the Colony.

It is, however, satisfactory to observe that the aggregate trade with the United Kingdom increased in value from £1,612,595 to £1,919,228 in the year under review. The Mother Country was responsible for 75 per cent. of the import trade and for 61 per cent. of the export trade as compared with 79 and 61 in 1916.

After the trade with the United Kingdom and with other West African countries, British and foreign, that with the United States of America, came next in importance. This trade aggregated £235,009, which is more than four times its value in 1913. Exports to the United States rose to £20,536, and imports from that country, to £214,475.

AGRICULTURE.

(a) *Government Experimental Farm.*

During the year the farm was visited by parties of chiefs and their retinues from the Karene District. These chiefs were supplied with plants and seeds to cultivate in their chiefdoms and some of them expressed a desire that the Government should assist them to make plantations of economic plants. One of the most influential chiefs subsequently made a tour of his country in order to explain to his people what he had seen at Jala. It must, however, be confessed that the demonstrations of the Agricultural Department, valuable and interesting as they may be from a scientific point of view, have hitherto failed to bring about any appreciable improvements in the crude and wasteful methods of agriculture pursued by the natives. As in other countries, the farmer in Sierra Leone is conservative in his ideas. In spite of the obvious advantages afforded by improved methods, he prefers to work the land as he has always worked it and as his fathers have worked it before him. The only way of overcoming this unprogressive mental attitude is by means of education combined with the policy, which is now being pursued, of establishing an experimental farm or plantation under the Agricultural Department, in each District.

(b) *General.*

A promising industry in cocoa is being built up in the Northern Sherbro District. Practically all the cocoa is, however, sold in an unfermented state. In order to afford assistance and advice to native planters a Government cocoa station was established at the beginning of the year at Bumpe in the above mentioned District.

The groundnut crop in the north of the Protectorate suffered severely owing to the heavy and prolonged rains, and disease was common.

Forestry.

Over 700 acres have now been planted and sown with gum copal in the Kassewe Hills Reserve. The plants show great promise.

Owing to the shortage of staff very little important work was performed during the year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Only nine Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are of some importance:—

The Native Produce Ordinance, which regulates the sale of native produce and provides penalties for its adulteration.

The Customs Duties (Export) Ordinance, 1917, which provides for the imposition of export duties on palm kernels, palm oil, and kola nuts as from the 1st of January 1918.

In consequence of the War, a number of Proclamations, Regulations, and Orders-in-Council were issued including provisions which revised the maximum prices imposed in the Colony, and restricted the export of certain commodities.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

The number of Elementary and Intermediate Mission Schools in the Colony is 99, of which 74 are assisted by the Government; of these 18 have been graded as Intermediate and 56 as Elementary under the provisions of the Education Code, 1916.

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	38	2,916	2.129
Wesleyan Methodist	21	2,109	1,431
United Methodist	11	[illegible]46	464
Roman Catholic	7	790	604
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion ..	9	332	238
African Methodist Episcopal	2	128	95
United Brethren in Christ	2	155	48
Seventh Day Adventist	2	74	58
Total	94	7,250	5,067

Compared with the previous year there appears to be a decrease of 13 in the number of schools; this is due to the new classification under the Education Code 1916; there is also a decrease of 539 in the roll number and of 353 in the average attendance.

The total income from all sources of the assisted Elementary and Intermediate Schools was £9,136, as compared with £8,108 in the previous year; school fees totalled £1,001, as compared with £1,087, whilst the total expenditure was £8,210. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,388, as compared with £3,569 in the previous year. All the Assisted Schools have now been inspected under the provisions of the Code, and it is satisfactory to report that the managers of 95 per cent. of these schools have provided an adequate staff for the purposes of complying with the conditions of the Code.

Some progress has been made in the composition of simple grammatical English. A more intelligent knowledge of arithmetic was discerned in 60 per cent. of the schools, but in the rest the subject still continued to be very badly taught. Geography was a general weakness; in very few schools did pupils show a practical knowledge even of the map of Sierra Leone or of West Africa. Hygiene and sanitation have been well taught in all the schools and the cumulative results of this teaching may be of benefit to the Colony in a few years' time.

The Government Training Institute is now at work and has fifteen student teachers on its roll. Rules have been passed by which Elementary, Intermediate, Full and Honours Teachers' Certificates can be obtained at the Training Institute and Fourah Bay College. Existing teachers have been afforded an opportunity of qualifying for a certificate by passing certain prescribed examinations such as the London Matriculation, within the next three years.

The enrolment and attendance at the Government Model School were as follows:—

Roll.	Average attendance.
302	244

At the time of writing, it is contemplated that secondary classes should be established for practising purposes as from 1919. Owing to the loss of the Principal and Vice-Principal at sea during 1917, the staff now consists of 2 Europeans, the Acting Principal and Instructress, a Native Assistant to the Principal and 11 native teachers—7 males and 4 females; among these are included a Manual Training Assistant and an Arabic Master. Members of the staff also undertake the work of the Government Training Institute.

There are 2 Industrial Schools in the Colony though at the time of writing 3 others have been approved by the Governor; of the 2 former, 1 is at Mobe in the Northern Sherbro District (Roman Catholic) and the other at Waterloo in the Headquarters District (Seventh Day Adventist). The former is a grant-aided institution. The enrolment and attendance were as follows:—

	Enrolment.	Average attendance.
Mobe (Boarding school)	56	48
Waterloo	74	58

The total amount of grants earned by the Mobe School was £98 9*s.* 5*d.* The Sherbro and Northern Sherbro Districts recruit their skilled craftsmen mainly from this institution. The pupils belong mainly to the Sherbros, Mendes, and Gallinas tribes of the Protectorate; the Waterloo institution deals mainly with the Sierra Leoneans.

There are thirteen Secondary Schools in the Colony, of which eight are missionary and five proprietary. The total enrolment is 1,285 and the average attendance 1,050. Three of the missionary schools are now grant-aided institutions and will be inspected by the Director of Education.

There are five Mohammedan Schools or Madrasas for boys and girls; the roll number was 690 and the average attendance 426, as compared with 656 and 451 in the previous year. Over a third of the children belong to the Protectorate tribes and consist mainly of Mandingoes, Temnes, Susus, Mendes ,and Fulahs. The subjects taught are English, Arabic, arithmetic, geography, hygiene and sanitation, drawing and handwork. Fees are charged at one school only.

The Mohammedan community continue to show their appreciation of the advantages offorded by the Government. For the first time in their history, a Mohammedan boy has passed a public examination, the Cambridge Preliminary. Though the Government pays the fees of 99 per cent. of the teaching staff, they, nevertheless, contributed £212 in the current year towards their school fund.

The Madrasa Islamia is approaching completion and is estimated to have cost nearly £700. The Madrasa Umaria expects in the next year to be housed in a new building, 90 per cent. of the expenses of which will be incurred by the Mohammedan community at the Village of Aberdeen.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only University College in West Africa.

The average number of students keeping term was 19.

Nine students matriculated during the year, while six completed all their examinations for the B.A degree.

Two graduates passed the Durham B.C.L. Examination and two took Second Class Honours in the LL.B. of London University.

Diocesan Technical School.

The total number of students on the roll of the Diocesan Technical School reached 46, as against 40 in 1916. These are drawn mainly from the Secondary Schools of the Colony.

Six scholarships affording free education are tenable in the School for two years, and renewable for a third on the recommendation of the Principal.

Protectorate Schools.

There were at the end of the year 140 pupils on the roll of the school at Bo for the sons and nominees of Chiefs, as compared with 123 at the end of 1916.

The school fees amounted to £860 while the total cost of maintaining the school was £3,885. The balance of £3,025 was met from the revenue of the Colony.

The Government Elementary Day School at Bumpe was continued successfully, and, although it suffered somewhat in the early part of the year owing to the death of the Paramount Chief, it recovered before the end, when the number of pupils on the roll rose to 67 with an average attendance of 54.

Early in April a Government Vernacular School (Mende) was opened at Baima in the Ronietta District, one day's journey from Bo. In less than one month it had reached its maximum number of pupils, viz., 30. Its average attendance from this time to the end of the year was 29·4.

Fifty-one non-Government schools with a total of 1,697 names on the rolls, were inspected and reported on. Progress was shewn in many of the boarding schools but the day schools stagnated, as in previous years.

The sum of £594 was awarded by the Government in grant-in-aid, of which £394 was earned by the boarding schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

In 1917 the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries throughout the Colony and Protectorate totalled 51,765, as compared with 49,368 in 1916.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,664 in-patients and 8,456 out-patients were treated, as compared with 1,096 and 8,749, respectively, in 1916. 262 operations were performed during the year.

At the Lunatic Asylum at Kissy there were 102 male and 34 female patients at the beginning of the year. 27 males and 15 females were admitted making a total of 178; of these, 23 died and 16 were relieved and discharged.

At the Female Incurable Hospital there were 35 patients at the beginning of the year and 83 were admitted. Of these, 53 were relieved and 24 died. On the 31st of December 41 patients remained.

At the Male Incurable Hospital there were 73 patients at the beginning of the year. 212 were admitted, 119 were discharged (as cured) and 82 died.

At the Leper Asylum there were 4 patients at the beginning of the year and 4 were admitted. Of these, 2 died and 4 absconded.

European Nursing Home.

There were 138 admissions during the year. Of these, 62 were officials and 44 belonged to the mercantile and shipping communities.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The deposits numbered 13,170 and amounted to £55,784 18*s.* 8*d.*, showing an increase of 2,804 in number and of £3,700 14*s.* 8*d.* in value when compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 7,996 and amounted to £57,631 19*s.* 0*d.*, showing a decrease of 331 in number and an increase of £517 2*s.* 7½*d.* in value in comparison with the figures for 1916.

The average value of each deposit was £4 4*s.* 9*d.*, and of each withdrawal £7 4*s.* 2*d.*, as against £5 0*s.* 5*d.*, and £6 17*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year.

1,750 accounts were opened during the year and 1,375 were closed, showing a net decrease of 375. At the end of the year the names of 6,903 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £107,562 9*s.* 7*d.* The average value of each account was at the close of the year, £15 11*s.* 6*d.*

The total sum invested amounted to £112,057, but, at the end of the year, the value of these investments had shrunk to £83,753. The dividends on these investments amounted to £3,875 2*s.* 3*d.*

The net profits of the Savings Bank were £280 8*s.* 9*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is employed only in the Colony, police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of court messengers under the administration of the District Commissioners.

At the end of the year under review the authorised strength of the police force consisted of a total of all ranks of 285, including three European Officers—the Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners of Police, one of whom, however, had been released for military service.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners received into Freetown Prison was 886, as compared with 1,311 in 1916. The daily average number of prisoners in custody was, however, 276, as compared with 262 in the preceding year.

The death-rate was again high. Of the prisoners received during the year 234 were found, on admission, to be suffering from disease. The high death-rate is, without doubt, due to the physical and physiological conditions of the prisoners who enter the prison. 154 were found to be suffering from venereal diseases in the active stage and 118 from amoebae and their cysts, 75 from ankylostomiasis, 66 from ascaris, and 57 from cardiac valvular affections.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 60 convictions in that court during the year. None of these cases was for homicide.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown 1,745 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 2,063 in 1916. These figures include 493 convictions for larceny, as compared with 573 in 1916.

In the District Courts of the Colony, there were 258 convictions, as against 343 in the preceding year. 93 of these were at Waterloo and 165 at Bonthe.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 84 convictions, as compared with 104 in 1916; of these, 4 were for murder.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate, there were 471 convictions, as compared with 620 in the preceding year.

The criminal statistics, especially of the Protectorate, are not a very reliable index to the amount of crime. Many cases are dealt with in the courts of the Paramount Chiefs and of these no return is made; on the whole, however, it may safely be said that the scarcity of serious crimes in the Protectorate, in view of the large population, is remarkable and speaks well for the law-abiding disposition of the tribes.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European and American residents was:—

Officials	244
Military	636
Others	210

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans due to climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate for the last three years.

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22

The average number of resident European officials was 110, as against 172 in 1916. Among these, 197 cases were placed on the sick list for a total period of 1,673 days. The average number of days upon the sick list for each patient was 8·93 and the daily average on the sick list was 4·58. The percentage of deaths to the total number of residents was ·95 and to the average number 1·81. While recognizing that these figures are satisfactory, it should be remembered that the European official community is composed of men in the prime of life and selected as constitutionally fit for service in the tropics.

Nine officials were invalided during the year.

The percentage of invalidings to the total number of residents, was 4·28.

Cline Town.

The average number of Europeans at this station was 56. Altogether 56 cases were placed on the sick list for a total of 408 days. Among officials, 1,710 cases were treated at the dispensary, and of the general public there were 3,717 cases with 5,969 subsequent attendances. This is a large increase over the 1916 figures.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 71, as compared with 81 during 1916. Of these, 44 were officials, 5 missionaries, 5 military officers, and 17 non-officials. The families of military and civil officers are included in the last number. On the whole, the health was again good.

Population of the Colony (as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony was returned at the last decennial census, in 1911, as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths recorded during 1917 was 1,887 or 24 per 1,000, and of births 1,545 or 20 per 1,000, of the population.

The population of Freetown, according to the 1911 census, was 34,090; the births registered in 1917 numbered 774 and the deaths 1,046. These figures show a birth-rate of 23 and a death-rate 33 per 1,000 respectively.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last three years are subjoined:—

1915	219
1916	218
1917	300

Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in the Colony, but not in the Protectorate. The excess of deaths over births registered in the Colony, which has been apparent in the returns for some years past, suggests that the population of the Colony is on the decrease. There is, however, a constant influx into the Peninsula of natives from the Protectorate, and the figures given must in any case be accepted with caution as the present system of registration can be hardly described as effective. The next census, which is due in 1921, should throw some interesting light on this question.

It is impossible to give any valuable account of the chief causes of death, as medical certification of death is neither compulsory nor usual.

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10, according to the district and tribe.

General.

In the Colony, and, more especially, in the Protectorate, cases of smallpox made their appearance from time to time, but the infection was prevented from spreading into an epidemic. Eight native public vaccinators were appointed and this number was subsequently increased to thirteen. Out of a total of 105,988 vaccinations reported as performed, 68,763 were returned as successful. Only 73·5 per cent. of the cases performed were, however, re-inspected.

Sanitation.

529 mosquito breeding-places were found, resulting in 431 prosecutions with 388 convictions.

An extensive campaign was carried out in Freetown in connexion with mosquito-breeding plants such as *Dracenae* and trees having natural or artificial cavities, such as paw-paw and cotton trees. Owing to an outbreak of yellow fever in certain parts of the Protectorate, native sanitary inspectors were employed on anti-mosquito work there and one has been posted to the Makene District, where three Europeans died within a period of 4 months. No evidence of any plague infection was discovered in any of the rats examined during the year.

The Cape Peninsula, which was formerly a favourable habitat of the *Glossina palpalis* and had been cleared during the previous year, was kept as open as possible and much grubbing was done so that farming operations, chiefly confined to the growth of low crops, could be carried out by those living in the vicinity.

Owing to the shortage of staff and funds, sanitation was, generally speaking, confined during the year to ordinary routine and maintenance work.

Climate.

The mean maximum temperature at Tower Hill Observatory was 85·7° F., while the mean minimum temperature was 74·5° F. The rainfall was 130·81 inches.

The subjoined table gives the observations taken in 1916 at certain out-stations :—

Station.	1917. Mean Air Temperature in shade. °F.		Total Rainfall.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Inches.
Batkanu	93·93	69·65	127·66
Bo	89·32	68·81	103·56
Bonthe	87·87	72·85	133·02
Kaballa	86·74	65·5	94·93
Kissy	84·52	73·63	107·86
Hill Station	82·93	70·48	135·70
Moyamba	89·4	69·9	101·25
Daru	90·12	69·41	174·05

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 43. Money order business was transacted at 20 offices and postal order business at 35.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,479,351, as compared with 1,526,444 in 1916.

The Money order transactions numbered 9,585, and amounted to £139,274, showing a decrease of 113 in number, but an increase of £7,004 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The postal orders issued numbered 44,828 and amounted to £29,855, as compared with 49,736 to the value of £32,952 in 1916. 48,387 orders amounting to £34,233 were paid—an increase of 1,729 in number and of £1,158 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The postal revenue totalled £8,523, showing an increase of £476, as compared with 1916. The Customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £3,419, and stamps to the value of £2,808 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £11,832, which shows a decrease of £255 when compared with the figures of 1916.

Telegraph and Telephone Services.

The only non-military land telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. Telegraph and telephone services are in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There is a telegraph line from Sengema to Pujehun, a distance of 47 miles.

There are also telegraph and telephones service between Boia and Kamabai on the branch line.

The Railway Department has under its control over 1,100 miles of electrical wiring.

There is a public Telephone Exchange in Freetown.

Telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

There is a wireless station at Freetown under the control of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

The revenue derived from the Railway Telegraph Department in 1917 was £3,048, as compared with £2,418 in 1916.

Railway.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street Terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Kamabai, a distance of 104 miles.

A mountain line 5¾ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government Wharf, the Government Quarry (Public Works Department) and the Recreation Ground and Ascension Town Cemetery.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total mileage open for traffic was 338 miles, exclusive of sidings.

The earnings of the line amounted to £158,495, expenses to £135,588, as compared with £156,429 and £127,466, respectively, in 1915. These figures include revenue from, and expenditure on, wharf cranes.

The allocation of working expenditure was as follows:—

	£
Way and Works	35,181
Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	67,109
Traffic	21,680
General	11,241
Telephone Exchange	377
Total	£135,588

	1916.	1917.
Total number of passengers ..	503,706	572,836
Tonnage of goods	54,570	56,155
Train miles	425,740	443,335

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Receipts per open mile ..	463	0	0	469	0	0
Receipts per train mile ..	0	7	4	0	7	2
Working expenses per open mile	377	0	0	401	0	0
Working expenses per train mile	0	6	0	0	6	1

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotive engines, 98 coaching vehicles, and 363 goods vehicles, including two breakdown vans, and two sand wagons, in addition to a travelling crane.

Roads.

The Moyamba-Sembehun Road was finally completed with the exception of a suspension bridge across the river at Sembehun.

Several of the roads in the Colony and Protectorate are now fit for light motor traffic.

Public Works.

No works of importance were undertaken during the year.

General.

A policy of rigid economy was again forced on the Colony by the War and the Administration was hampered throughout the year by shortage of staff. The productivity of the country was, however, well maintained by the native population, and it is anticipated, now that hostilities have ceased, that conditions will tend gradually to improve. On the whole the Colony has come through the economic stress of the last four years as well as could have been expected and has paid its way throughout. In regard to the future, also, it is satisfactory to note that the great demand for oleaginous produce in the European markets assures the commercial position of West African Colonies for at least some years to come.

W. B. STANLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Freetown,
27th December, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	„
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	„
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	„
964	Seychelles	„
965	Weihaiwei	„
966	Fiji	„
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	„
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
971	Ceylon	„
972	Hong Kong	„
973	Zanzibar	„
974	St. Helena	„
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	„
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	„
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	„
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 1032.

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REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 990.)

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SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1918.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1918, from all sources, including land sales and a sum of £10,000 received from the Freetown City Council in part repayment of expenditure on Waterworks, amounted to £583,149 as compared with £546,449, in the preceding year.

The actual receipts fell short of the Estimate by £25,371.

The shortage in revenue is due to the following causes :—

(*a*) The receipt of £10,000 instead of £20,000 from the Water Authority in respect of the cost of the Freetown Waterworks Extension.

(*b*) A decline in Customs receipts.

(*c*) A decrease in the receipts from House Tax and Spirit Licences in the Protectorate, and

(*d*) A fall in Railway receipts of £19,037.

The last three causes are mainly attributable to war conditions.

The total revenue for the last three years 1916 to 1918 is shown in the subjoined table :—

1916	£551,106
1917	546,449
1918	583,159

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £39,148, and the year ended with a cash balance of £30,336.

The total expenditure for the years 1916–1918 was as follows :—

1916	£532,940
1917	512,844
1918	544,011

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 851: [Cd. 7622–42].

Loan Expenditure.

By the Public Loan Ordinance, 1913, the Governor is authorised to raise, by loan, a sum of £1,000,000 for the following purposes :—

Redemption of bonds of the 1904 loan ..	£518,000
Railway Extension	232,000
Harbour Works	250,000
Total	£1,000,000

The net proceeds of this loan, which was issued under the provisions of this Ordinance on the 31st December, 1913, amounted to £942,827, while the total expenditure incurred up to the end of 1918 was £913,444. Of this, £308,450 was spent on Railway Extension, £110,429 on Freetown Harbour Works, and £494,565 on redemption of bonds.

There is thus a balance of £29,382 still unexpended. Only £1,818 chargeable to Loan funds was expended during the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £319,576, of which £161,961 represents the cost price of securities held by the Crown Agents on account of surplus funds. On the 31st December, 1918, the market value of these securities amounted to £119,777.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,730,048.

The amount standing to the credit of the sinking funds on the 31st December, was £123,412.

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, amounted to £1,606,636 at the end of the year.

Currency.

In addition to the Imperial coinage and the West African silver coinage, the five franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland are legal tender in Sierra Leone, the value of each being fixed at 3*s*. 10½*d*. In 1916 it was found necessary, owing to the depreciation in value of these coins, to prohibit their importation into the Colony and Protectorate, and this prohibition is still in force.

Currency notes issued in the United Kingdom under the Currency and Bank Notes Act of 1914 are also legal tender.

Currency requirements were amply met during the year with the aid of a further issue of West African currency notes. The value of the currency notes issued to the Banks for circulation, amounted, on the 31st December, 1918, to £99,250.

The Port of Sherbro Fund.

The balance to the credit of this fund on the 1st January, 1918, was £991. The receipts, including an annual contribution of £300 from the Sherbro District House Tax Fund, amounted to £916, making a total of £1,907. The expenditure amounted to £814, leaving a balance of £1,093 available for carrying out improvements in Bonthe and other places within the limits of the Port of Sherbro.

(660) Wt.32796/354. 1250.90. 4.20 B.&F.,Ltd. G.11/14.

General.

The balance standing to the credit of the House Tax Fund (Colony) on the 1st January, 1918, was £4,704. The revenue collected during the year was £2,600, making a total of £7,304. The expenditure on various works and improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected, amounted to £2,019, leaving a balance of £5,285 at the close of the year.

At the end of the year the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund amounted to £3,410.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department from all sources during the year 1918, after the deduction of drawbacks and refunds, amounted to £305,320, which shows an increase of £41,735, in comparison with the return for 1917.

An increase of £27,055 is shown in the revenue derived from *ad valorem* duties. This increase is attributable to the enhanced values of the imports, rather than to an increase in their volume.

The specific duties on the other hand show a decrease of £19,753, as compared with the previous year, which is due to a falling off in the importation of unmanufactured tobacco.

Spirits are responsible for the appreciable increase of £3,447.

Export duty was imposed on certain products (palm kernels, palm oil, and kola nuts) as from 1st January, 1918. The aggregate amount collected during the year was £31,954. This falls somewhat short of the estimated receipts (£35,400). The deficiency is due almost entirely to the drop in the quantity of palm produce exported.

The gross revenue derived from import duties in the Port of Sherbro amounted to £23,228, and from those in Freetown to £239,970, as compared with £35,639 and £220,263 respectively in the preceding year.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the years 1916 to 1918 is as follows :—

1916	£1,135,667
1917	1,332,752
1918	1,680,336

Commercial imports amounted in value to £1,652,184, as compared with £1,288,499 in 1917.

Government imports showed a marked decrease. This amounted to £28,152, as compared with £44,253 in the preceding year, and £196,770 in 1914.

Having regard to the reduction in value of our domestic exports in 1918, the exceptional increase in the value of the commercial imports is remarkable. This amounts to £363,685, slightly more than the increase shown when compared with the 1913 figures.

Statistics in regard to the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony show an increase of 7,667 gallons in quantity, and £33,800 in value when compared with the figures for 1917; and a decrease of 168,556 gallons in quantity, and £30,261 in value as compared with the 1914 figures.

Exports.

The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the three years 1916 to 1918:—

	£
1916	1,174,546
1917	1,497,995
1918	1,516,871

In regard to the 1918 figures, £1,189,271 represents the value of the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone as compared with £1,276,434 in 1917.

SIERRA LEONE PRODUCTS.

Palm Kernels.—The exports during the year show a decrease of £159,371 in value, and 17,204 tons in volume. The total quantity exported which amounted to 40,816 tons valued at £683,137, went to the United Kingdom. The price of kernels during the year was fixed by the Imperial Government at £26 a ton, which secured a fair profit to each section of the trade.

The large decrease shown above is due to a number of causes amongst which may be mentioned lack of shipping facilities, the influenza epidemic, early and heavy rains, and the high cost of imported goods. In considering this decrease it should be borne in mind that the year 1917, which was a better year for shipment than actual production, was credited with some 6,000 tons carried over from the previous year and left in shippers' stores owing to lack of freight space. At the end of 1917 the stocks remaining on hand were small, as shipments had been effected speedily. During the height of the influenza epidemic in August and September, there was a deficiency of 13,015 tons as compared with the exports for the corresponding two months of the previous year.

Palm Oil.—Only 260,442 gallons valued at £33,748 were exported during the year under review, as compared with 543,183 valued at £63,385 in 1917. The decrease in the quantity exported is attributable to the same causes which restricted the export of palm kernels. Here also the decrease was most pronounced in August and September; in the latter month not a single gallon of oil left the Colony.

The average price of kernels for the year was £15 6*s*. a ton, and of oil £23 10*s*. a ton.

Of the total quantity of palm oil exported, 254,715 gallons went to the United Kingdom, and 5,719 gallons to British West African possessions.

Kola Nuts.—The export of kola nuts during 1918 showed an increase of 600 tons in quantity, and £76,599 in value, as compared with the figures for the preceding year. This increase is probably due to fresh trees coming into bearing. The total exports amounted to 2,302 tons valued at £397,726.

The trade in this commodity which is mostly in the hands of Syrians, is confined almost entirely to West Africa, north of Sierra Leone.

During the year under review, the price of kola nuts fluctuated in an extraordinary manner. In October 1917 the price was £20 a cwt.; while in November 1918 it had dropped to £3 6*s.* for the same quantity.

Ginger.—The quantity of ginger exported was 1,576 tons valued at £35,863, being an increase in quantity of 439 tons, and in value of £13,443, when compared with the previous year's figures. Of the quantity exported, 698 tons valued at £16,323 went to the United Kingdom, and 870 tons valued at £22,853 to the United States of America, and the remaining 8 tons to British and Foreign West African possessions.

The average price per ton in 1918 was £90 against £47 in the previous year, and £16 in 1914.

Piassava.—Although the yearly average price for piassava was nearly double that for the previous year, being £84 per ton against £44, there was an increase of 98 tons only in the quantity exported. This is accounted for by lack of shipping facilities at the Sherbro ports from which practically all the piassava is exported. The total quantity shipped, all of which went to the United Kingdom, was 569 tons valued at £15,065.

Hides.—The number of hides exported is returned at 8,470, valued at £3,488, as compared with 9,167, valued at £4,667 in 1917.

The decrease is the direct result of the prohibition placed on the importation of hides into the United Kingdom during the War.

SHIPPING.

821 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 1,736,247 tons entered and cleared, as compared with 774 vessels, aggregating 1,526,640 tons during the previous year. This return includes 65 sailing vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 2,680 tons entered, and 67 of an aggregate tonnage of 1,724 tons cleared. The corresponding figures for the previous year were :—

Sailing ships, entered, 73, aggregate tonnage 4,782 tons; sailing ships cleared, 76; aggregate tonnage, 4,750 tons.

The above figures relate to merchant vessels only, and do not include the number and tonnage of vessels employed by the Admiralty in any capacity. To British vessels is due practically the whole of the increase in tonnage.

General Features of Trade

Once more the predominating factors during the year under review have been the total absence of German trade and the lack of shipping facilities; this latter condition placed a somewhat severe handicap on the commerce of the Colony.

The Imports and Exports of merchandise in 1918 surpassed in value those of any year since the outbreak of war. The increase over 1917 is £366,460, or 11·45 per cent. of the total value amounting to £3,197,207. Although probably the whole of the increase was due to the higher price of commodities, it is still worthy of note.

While the expansion in trade with the United Kingdom may be attributed to higher values generally, the United States of America has been quick to grasp the opportunity of developing her export trade with this Colony. In 1918 the total imports from America were valued at £265,323, an increase of £50,848 over the figures for 1917. The total exports to America during 1918 were valued at £22,912, as against £20,534 in 1917, an increase of £2,378.

AGRICULTURE.

(a) *Government Experimental Farm.*

As in past years Chiefs were encouraged to visit this farm, and as a result a certain number of Chiefs have started permanent plantations of their own with the assistance and guidance of the Agricultural Department.

(b) *General.*

The promising cocoa industry in the Northern Sherbro District is being carefully fostered and during the year cocoa areas have been extended.

Forestry.

In the Kassewe Hills Reserve, where over 700 acres were planted and sown with gum copal in 1917, the plants show great promise. The old trees which had suffered severely from over-tapping have made a good recovery.

The demarcation of the proposed Reserve in the Kambui Hills was practically completed at the end of 1918.

Geological Survey.

A Government geologist arrived in the Colony in August, 1918, and commenced preparations for a geological survey of the Colony and Protectorate.

The survey of the Colony, as distinct from the Protectorate, was completed before the end of the year, and in addition, parts of the Bullom Shore and the adjacent country were visited and examined.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these, the most important are the Motor Traffic, Weights and Measures, Enemy Property, and Vaccination Ordinances.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Colony Schools.

Education is carried on in the Colony by means of :—

(*a*) Elementary and Intermediate Mission Schools.
(*b*) The Government Model School.
(*c*) The Industrial or Trades Schools.
(*d*) Secondary Schools.
(*e*) Government Mohammedan Schools (Madrasas).
(*f*) The Diocesan Technical School
(*g*) Fourah Bay College (University of Durham).

Elementary and Intermediate Mission Schools derive their revenue from Government grants, school fees, society grants, and voluntary contributions.

The number of elementary and intermediate Mission Schools in the Colony is 96, of which 74 are assisted by the Government; of these, 56 schools have been graded as intermediate, and 18 as elementary under the provisions of the Education Code, 1916.

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	40	3,306	2.295
Wesleyan Methodist	22	1,876	1,203
United Methodist	11	672	423
Roman Catholic	8	780	629
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion ..	9	456	303
African Methodist Episcopal	2	128	95
United Brethren in Christ	2	102	82
Seventh Day Adventist	2	87	72
Total	96	7,407	5,102

Compared with the previous year there is an increase of 2 in the number of schools, there is also an increase of 157 in the roll number, and 55 in the average attendance; this is due to the new classification under the Education Code, 1916.

The total income from all sources of the 74 Assisted Elementary and Intermediate Schools was £7,717, as compared with £9,136 in the previous year, whilst the total expenditure was £7,513, as compared with £8,210 in 1917. The Government contributed in grants the sum of £3,699, as compared with £3,388 in the previous year; all the Assisted Schools have now been inspected under the provisions of the Code, and it is satisfactory to report that the Managers of 95 per cent. of them have provided an adequate staff for the purposes of complying with the conditions of the Code.

Very great progress has been made in the composition of simple grammatical English. A more intelligent knowledge of arithmetic was discerned in 65 per cent. of the schools, but in the rest the subject still continued to be very badly taught. Geography showed general weakness ; in very few schools did pupils show a practical knowledge of the map of Sierra Leone and of West Africa. Hygiene and sanitation has been most excellently taught in all the schools, and the cumulative results of this teaching will be of great benefit to the Colony in a few years time.

The Government Training Institute is now at work, and has 15 student teachers on its roll. Rules have been passed by which Elementary, Intermediate, Full, and Honours Teachers' Certificates can be obtained at the Training Institute and Fourah Bay College. Existing teachers have been afforded an opportunity of qualifying for a certificate by passing certain prescribed examinations such as the London Matriculation, etc., within the next three years.

The enrolment and attendance at the Government Model School were as follows :—

Roll.	Average attendance.
300	252

There are 5 Industrial Schools in the Colony ; one at Waterloo in the Headquarters District (Seventh Day Adventist) is unassisted ; the others are all assisted and are conducted by the Roman Catholic Missions at Moyamba, Ronietta District, Pujehun, and Mobe, Northern Sherbro District, and Blama, Railway District. The enrolment and attendance were as follows :—

	Enrol.	Average attendance.
Mobe (Boarding school)	57	55
Waterloo	87	72
Moyamba	61	59
Pujehun	30	28
Blama	47	40

The total amount of grants earned by the Assisted Industrial Schools was £234. The Sherbro and Northern Sherbro Districts, which contribute at least one-fifth of the revenue of this Colony, recruit their skilled craftsmen principally from the institutions at Mobe and Pujehun. The pupils at these assisted schools are mainly Sherbros, Mendes, and Gallinas, tribes of the Protectorate ; the Waterloo Institution deals mainly with Creoles, natives of this Colony.

There are 11 Secondary Schools in the Colony, 7 Missionary, and 4 Proprietary. The total enrolment was 1,057, and the average attendance 938. Three of the Missionary Schools are now grant-aided institutions, namely, the Albert Academy (U.B.C.), the United Methodist Collegiate School, and the African Methodist Episcopal Seminary. The total Grant-in-aid earned was £272 on an average attendance for 1918 of 170.

There are five Mohammedan Schools or Madrasas for boys and girls ; the roll number was 641, and the average attendance 368, as compared with 690 and 426 respectively in the previous year. Over a third of the children belong to the Protectorate tribes and consist mainly of Mandingoes, Temnes, Susus, Mendes, and Fulahs. The subjects taught are English, Arabic, arithmetic, geography, hygiene and sanitation, drawing, and handwork. Fees are charged at one school only.

The Mohammedan Community continue to show their appreciation of the advantages afforded by the Government. Though the Government pays the fees of 99 per cent. of the teaching staff, they, nevertheless, contributed £380 during the year towards their school fund, as compared with £212 in the previous year.

The Madrasa Islamia is approaching completion and is estimated to have cost nearly £700, and the Madrasa Umaria expects in the next year to be housed in a new building, 90 per cent. of the expenses of which will be incurred by the Mohammedan Community at the village of Aberdeen.

University Education.

Fourah Bay College is the only University College in West Africa.

The average number of students keeping term was 21.

Eleven students matriculated during the year, while 8 completed all their examinations for the B.A. degree.

For the past 91 years the College has been staffed, controlled, and financed by the Church Missionary Society.

Protectorate Schools.

The boarding school for sons and nominees of Chiefs at Bo, maintained its numbers, the year ending with 140 pupils.

The total cost of maintaining the school was £3,220.

At the Government Elementary Day School at Bumpe, the average number of pupils on the roll for the year was 59, with an average attendance of 48. The Government Vernacular School at Baiima was also successfully carried on at very small cost, the number on the roll continuing at its maximum, viz., 30 with an average attendance of 27 throughout the year.

There are 54 aided Elementary Schools in the Protectorate, 38 of which have been graded as "Elementary," 6 as "Intermediate," and the rest as "Elementary Schools on probation."

Their distribution amongst the various denominations is as follows:—

Anglican	16
Roman Catholic	5
Wesleyan Methodist	7
United Methodist	5
United Brethren in Christ	15
American Methodist Episcopal	3
American Wesleyan	2
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel ..	1

The total grant-in-aid earned was £796, the number presented being 1,078. The curriculum is the same as that for Colony schools, and their inclusion in the Code area has undoubtedly been of great advantage both from the financial and educational points of view.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

In 1918 the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries throughout the Colony and Protectorate totalled 55,562, as compared with 51,765 in 1917.

The total number of in-patients treated in the wards of the Colonial Hospital was 1,493; of these, 1,159 were male, and 334 female patients. The total number of out-patients was 8,332.

At the Lunatic Asylum at Kissy 42 male and 16 female patients were admitted during the year; of these, 10 died and 28 were discharged as cured or relieved. At the end of the year 148 patients remained in the asylum.

At the Female Incurable Hospital there were 52 patients at the beginning of the year, and 55 were subsequently admitted. Of these, 24 patients died and 55 were discharged, leaving 25 in the hospital at the end of the year.

At the Male Incurable Hospital there were 84 patients at the commencement of the year, whilst 193 were subsequently admitted; of this number 121 were discharged and 88 died, leaving 68 in the hospital at the end of the year.

At the Leper Asylum there were 3 patients at the beginning of the year. During the year 4 were admitted, 1 died, 1 absconded, and 2 were discharged, leaving 3 in the asylum at the end of the year.

European Nursing Home.

There were 288 admissions during the year, which is an increase of 150 over the figures for the previous year. The number of war vessels in the harbour and the influenza epidemic are responsible for the increased admissions. There were 25 deaths, which mostly took place a few hours after admission, from influenza and pneumonia.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was £100,866 2*s.* 4*d.*, a decrease of £6,696 7*s.* 3*d.* when compared with the previous year. This decrease is accounted for by the opening of a Savings Bank branch at the Colonial Bank and the counter attractions of War Savings Certificates and War Bonds.

The total number of deposits was 11,945 amounting to £45,645 13*s.* 11*d.*, showing a decrease in number of 1,225, and of £10,139 4*s.* 9*d.* in value when compared with the previous year's figures.

The withdrawals totalled 6,687 and amounted to £54,633 6*s.* 1*d.*, showing a decrease in number of 1,309, and in value of £2,998 12*s.* 11*d.* when compared with the figures for the previous year.

There were 1,503 accounts opened and 1,682 closed during the year. At the end of the year there were 6,727 depositors on the books, and the average value of each account was £14 19*s.* 11*d.*

The total sum invested amounted to £100,056 10*s*. 8*d*., an amount of £12,000 having been transferred to surplus funds during the year. The dividends received from investments amounted to £3,676 12*s*. 10*d*.

The net profit of the Savings Bank at the end of the year was £361 0*s*. 4*d*.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of court messengers numbering 271 under the administration of District Commissioners.

At the end of the year the authorised strength of the police force was 285 of all ranks including 3 European Officers, i.e., the Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners of Police.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners received into the Freetown Prison was 879, as compared with 886 in 1917. The daily average number in custody was 279, as compared with 276 in the preceding year.

Admissions to the prison hospital during the year numbered 467; of these 273 were cured, 169 were relieved, and 23 died.

On the outbreak of influenza in September there were 290 prisoners in gaol. Of these, 256 suffered seriously from the infection and were admitted to hospital.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 58 convictions in that Court during the year; of these, 3 were for homicide.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown 1,708 persons were convicted summarily as compared with 1,745 in 1917. These figures include 416 convictions for larceny as compared with 493 for the same offence in 1917.

In the District Courts of the Colony there were 256 convictions as against 258 in the preceding year. Of these, 102 were at Waterloo, and 154 at Bonthe.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 74 convictions, as compared with 84 in the previous year; of these 5 were for homicide.

In the Court of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 422 convictions, as compared with 471 in the previous year.

The Criminal statistics, especially in the Protectorate, are not a very reliable index to the amount of crime, as many cases are dealt with in the courts of the Paramount Chiefs of which no accurate returns are available. On the whole, however, it may safely be said that the scarcity of serious crimes in the Protectorate in view of the large population is remarkable, and speaks well for the law-abiding disposition of the tribes.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European and American residents was :—

Officials	185
Non-Officials	277
Military	574

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans in the Colony and Protectorate, due to climatic and non-climatic causes.

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918 ..	—	46	—	6	3	7	62

The average number of resident European Officials was 97, as compared with 110 in 1917. Among these, 158 cases were placed on the sick list for a total period of 1,528 days. The average number of days upon the sick list for each patient was 9·67, and the daily average on the sick list 4·18. There were six deaths during the year, and the percentage of deaths to the total number of residents was 2·64, and to the average number 6·18.

Eleven officials were invalided during the year.

The percentage of invalidings to the total number of residents was 4·84.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 58, as compared with 71 during 1917. Of these, 42 were officials, 1 missionary, 4 military officers, 11 non-officials. The families of military and civil officers are included in the last number. On the whole the health was good.

Population of Colony (as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony returned at the last decennial census in 1911 was 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths recorded during 1918 was 3,395, or 45 per 1,000. The number of births was 1,456, or 19 per 1,000 of the population.

The population of Freetown, according to the 1911 census, was 34,090. The births registered during 1918 numbered 695 and the deaths 2,118. The figures show a birth-rate of 20 and a death-rate of 62 per 1,000, respectively.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last three years are subjoined :—

1916	218
1917	300
1918	404

Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in the Colony but not in the Protectorate. The excess of deaths over births registered in the Colony shows an increase this year of over 100 per cent. This excess, however, is due principally to an epidemic of influenza which visited the Colony in the latter part of the year, and to which 1,072 deaths are attributed.

The annually recurring excess of deaths over births suggests that the population of the Colony is steadily decreasing, but as there is a constant influx of Protectorate natives into the Peninsula, and as the strict enforcement of the Registration Ordinance presents some difficulty, the figures given must be accepted with caution.

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of which number 1,326,151 are natives whilst the remainder numbering 3,426 are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10 per house according to the custom of the tribe.

During the year under review the Colony and Protectorate were visited by a severe epidemic of influenza. It is estimated that two-thirds of the population contracted the disease, and that during the month of September, 3 per cent. of the native population died from this cause. The number of admissions to the hospital and the total attendance at the different dispensaries of people suffering from malaria, show a considerable decrease in comparison with different years. The total, 2,497, is 507 below last year's figures. Smallpox in a mild form occurred in the various parts of the Colony and Protectorate, but partly owing to the new scheme of locally appointed vaccinators there was a large diminution in the total number of cases, the figures for this year being two-thirds less than the 1917 figures. Out of a total of 63,700 vaccinations reported as performed, 32,033 were returned as successful. The decrease in the number of vaccinations, 42,288 as compared with the figures for 1917 is accounted for chiefly by the influenza epidemic; for nearly two months vaccination was suspended.

Sanitation.

During the year anti-mosquito measures on a much more extensive scale than hitherto have been carried out in Freetown. As there was reason to believe that malaria was being introduced into England by crews of ships infected at Sierra Leone, it was considered necessary to adopt more effective anti-malarial measures at the port, and a sum of £20,000 was accordingly set aside for this purpose. Mosquito breeding plants and trees with natural or artificial cavities were systematically dealt with. The closing of wells was also undertaken as part of the anti-malarial campaign, and during the year 145 wells were closed. Only one case of yellow fever occurred during the year in Freetown, and so far as is known, no cases occurred in the Protectorate, although in 1917 two cases were recorded in the Karene District. No case of plague occurred, and no evidence of plague was discovered by the bacteriological examination of the 5,987 rats caught during the year.

Climate.

The mean maximum temperature at Tower Hill Observatory was 94·00°F., while the mean minimum temperature was 62·00°F. The rainfall was 103·43 inches. The subjoined table gives the observations taken in 1918 at certain out-stations.

Station	1918. Mean Air Temperature in shade. °F.		Total Rainfall.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Inches.
Batkanu	99·29	62·60	102·20
Bo	91·70	65·80	105·01
Bonthe	90·40	70·50	123·95
Daru	102·30	63·48	100·90
Kaballa	85·60	60·00	86·29
Kissy	94·03	69·90	104·90
Moyamba	95·03	65·04	82·08

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 43.

Money order transactions numbered 7,992, and amounted to £103,840, a decrease of 1,593 in number and £25,433 in value when compared with the figures for the previous year.

The postal orders issued numbered 43,082, and amounted to £29,370 as compared with 44,828 to the value of £29,855 in 1917. Postal orders totalling 45,623 to the value of £31,980 were paid, showing a decrease of 2,764 in number and £2,253 in value when compared with the figures for the previous year.

The postal revenue totalled £8,475, showing a decrease of £48, as compared with the figures for 1917. The Customs duty collected in respect of parcels amounted to £5,073, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. when compared with the 1917 figure. The value of the stamps sold in connection with inland revenue services amounted to £3,164.

The expenditure amounted to £12,742, an increase of £910 when compared with last year's figures.

Telegraph and Telephone Services.

The only non-military land telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the Railway Department. Telegraph and telephone services are in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown). There are telegraph lines between Mano and Bendu, Mano and Pujehun, and Songo Town and Port Lokkoh. There are also telegraph and telephone services between Boia and Kamabai on the branch line of the Railway.

There is a public telephone exchange in Freetown. Telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown. There is also a wireless station at Freetown under the control of the same Company.

The revenue derived from the Railway Telegraph Department in 1918 was £3,238, as compared with £3,048 in 1917.

Railway.

The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway extends from Freetown (Water Street Terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. There is a branch line from Boia Junction to Kamabai, a distance of 104 miles. A mountain line 5¾ miles long runs from Freetown to Hill Station. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government Wharf, the Government Quarry (Public Works Department), and the Cemetery at Ascension Town. The gauge of all these lines is 2 feet 6 inches. The total mileage open for traffic therefore was 338, exclusive of sidings.

The total Capital Liability at the end of the year was £1,615,421 (excluding Railway surveys £1,515). This sum includes permanent improvements, additional plant, machinery, locomotives, rolling stock, and telegraph and telephone materials provided from time to time since the opening of the line in 1899.

The earnings of the line amounted to £148,962 and the expenses to £142,201, as compared with £158,495 and £135,588 in 1917. These figures include revenue from and expenditure on wharf cranes.

The allocation of working expenditure was as follows :—

	£
Way and Works	32,417
Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	77,598
Traffic	21,018
General	10,824
Telephone Exchange	344
Total	£142,201

	1917.	1918.
Total number of passengers ..	572,836	549,472
Tonnage of goods	56,155	48,455
Train miles	443,335	402,768

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Receipts per open mile	469	0	0	441	0	0
Receipts per train mile	0	7	2	0	7	5
Working expenses per open mile	401	0	0	421	0	0
Working expenses per train mile	0	6	1	0	7	0

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotive engines, 98 coaching vehicles, and 363 goods vehicles including two breakdown vans and two sand wagons in addition to a travelling crane.

Roads.

The following is a list of the roads in the Protectorate, with their approximate mileages, which can be used for light motor traffic :—

Moyamba	to	Sembehun	18 miles.
Bo	,,	Pujehun	48 ,,
,,	,,	Mamdu	18 ,,
Blama	,,	Boadgibu	24 ,,
Hangha	,,	Panguma	20 ,,
Pendembu	,,	Kanre Lahun	18 ,,

There are permanent bridges on all these roads with the exception of the Bo-Pujehun road, along which they have been constructed for the first seven miles only.

In the Colony proper a new motor road 30 feet wide was constructed from Congo Town to Lumley Village. The road between Freetown and Waterloo was much improved during the year under review. Commencing at both ends of the road the work of improvement had advanced 6 and 7 miles respectively by the close of the year, and these portions of the road could be used by light motor cars. The main roads in Freetown were also much improved. As a result of these improvements considerable numbers of light cars were being imported into the Colony from America at the end of the year.

Public Works.

No new works of importance were undertaken this year.

W. B. Stanley,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

29th December, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
997	Basutoland	1917–1918
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,
1004	Malta	,,
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	,,
1007	Ceylon	,,
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	,,
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1012	Ashanti	,,
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	,,
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	,,
1019	Bermuda	,,
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1923	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	,,
1025	Cyprus	,,
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1032.)

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SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1919.*

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Sierra Leone, consisting of the Colony and Protectorate, is about the size of Ireland (30,000 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and 10° 40″ and 13° 21″ of west longitude. The greatest depth from north to south is rather over 200 miles, and from west to east about 180 miles.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Bonthe Island and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, as it is a port of call for ocean-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,700 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds. These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 330 square miles and its population, including Freetown, numbers about 80,000.

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account during the Great War Freetown Harbour was of great importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets, thanks to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who formed the nucleus of a well-planned town. During the past ten years a number of fine buildings and offices have been erected, and during the past four years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time over a hundred motor vehicles ply in Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there is a large reservation of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is about 40,000.

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 851. [Cmd. 7622–42.]

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for ocean-going steamers and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. Speaking generally, the Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are at least eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries ; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, which forms part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel to Turner's Peninsula (formerly part of the Colony), is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards Sherbro Island even in the dry season and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain ports on the Sewa and Wanje rivers.

The nature of the country also varies considerably. Roughly speaking, a line drawn due east from Freetown indicates approximately the point at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south merges with the more open thinly-wooded, grassy country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of nearly 50 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is considerably denser in the southern or forest regrowth belt (locally known as " bush " country).

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is now divided into three provinces under Provincial Commissioners ; each province is sub-divided into four districts under District Commissioners.

The population of the Protectorate is now estimated at 1,500,000 and is composed of the following tribes :—

Northern Province ..	Susus, Yalunkas, Karankos, Limbas, Lokkos, and Timnes with some Mandingoes and Fullahs.
Central Province ..	Konnòs, Kissis and Mendes.
Southern Province ..	Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Mendes.

The Mendes are far more numerous than the other tribes. The largest towns in the Protectorate have a population of about 2,000, but these are comparatively few in number ; the bulk of the population resides in villages ranging in size from 30 to 100 houses.

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HISTORICAL.

In one respect the history of Sierra Leone differs from that of other British West African colonies ; from the commencement Sierra Leone was really a colony and not merely a trading station. Her colonists were certain Africans who became stranded in London after the close of the American War in 1782, in which they had taken part, and certain Europeans presumably seeking adventure. In 1787 a party of these colonists under Captain Thompson of the Royal Navy, to whom had been entrusted the task of forming a settlement, landed at Sierra Leone and succeeded in obtaining from the local chief (King Tom) a grant of land of about 20 square miles on the site which is at present occupied by Freetown. This grant was subsequently confirmed in 1788 by the paramount chief (Nembanna, which, strictly speaking, means Regent Chief), who ceded the land for ever on receiving payment.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from native chiefs. In 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate ; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy, then engaged in suppressing the overseas slave traffic.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Timnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 King Farima and King Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies. In 1808 the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed. From this date the condition of the Colony commenced to improve. It is interesting to note that from 1814 to 1888, a period of 74 years, 18 governors or acting governors (with the exception of one who was killed) died in Sierra Leone or on their way home from the Colony, out of a total of 60 different officers who administered the Government during that period.

About 1820 the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland and a number of treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands, for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullon were ceded to the Crown ; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. About 1852 the Government of the Colony began to make its weight felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. The same year the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony. In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the Northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the Eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the Hinterland of Sierra Leone was proclaimed a Protectorate and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate, which commenced in the Karene District by the refusal of a Timne chief (Bai Bureh) to pay the House Tax which was being imposed for the first time. In April the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. Early in the following year the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful. Progress has, perhaps, been slower than in other West African Colonies but it has been steady. In 1891 the revenue was returned at £89,869 and expenditure at £77,965. In the estimates for 1921 both revenue and expenditure are placed at over £1,000,000.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It was not to be expected that, in a period of world-wide re-adjustment to altered conditions, Sierra Leone would be exempt from her share of tribulation. And, in fact, the year 1919 was, on the whole, one of great distress in the Colony and Protectorate, which were possibly tried more severely than any of the other British West African Colonies.

In the first place, there was a serious shortage of food. The farms had been insufficiently cleared owing to the early rains of the preceding year, and the influenza epidemic interfered with the harvesting of a crop which was already gravely below the average. A famine resulted, and there ensued riots directed against the Syrian traders, who were accused of hoarding foodstuffs. Great damage was done, and the Colony was involved in considerable loss, both direct and indirect.

Moreover, the steady rise in the prices of imported goods caused much distress among the poorer classes of the community ; and though the increase in the local price of palm kernels and palm oil was an unexpected piece of good fortune, its beneficial results did not contribute to the relief of the distressed elements until the later part of the year. Labour conditions in the capital were dislocated by the throwing out of employment of all those who had worked as casual labourers while Freetown was used as a naval base, and the idle sections of the population became a danger to the rest of the community. Nor was the Government in a position to provide employment by a programme of public works as, even if the finances of the Colony permitted it, which they did not, it would have been impossible to obtain material in any quantity.

In spite of the difficulties of the times, it is gratifying to be able to report that at the end of the year Sierra Leone showed signs of emerging from the long period of depression. Revenue came in unexpectedly well, trade improved, and the year closed with a surplus of revenue over expenditure.

Furthermore, it may be claimed that the year 1919 has been a year of progress. Communications, both in the Colony and Protectorate, were immensely extended ; the streets of Freetown were cleaner and healthier than ever before ; and with improved roads, traffic received a great impetus ; motor vehicles appeared in increasing numbers not only in the capital but in the Protectorate. Great attention was devoted to education, details of which will be found in the section devoted to that subject. Experiments were carried out in brickmaking, with a view to decreasing the present almost prohibitive cost of building material.

VITAL STATISTICS.

European Population.

The number of European and American residents was—

Officials	202
Non-officials	295
Military	679

The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans in the Colony and Protectorate, due to climatic and non-climatic causes.

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Totals.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1919 ..	3	5	1	2	2	—	13

The average number of resident European officials was 102 as compared with 97 in 1918.

There was one death during the year and the percentage of deaths to the total number of residents was ·49 and to the average number 0·98.

Four officials were invalided during the year.

The percentage of invalidings to the total number of residents was 1·98.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 57 as compared with 58 in 1918. Of these 38 were officials, military 7, missionaries 1, non-military 11. The families of military and civil officers are included in the last number. On the whole the health was good.

Population of Colony (as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony returned at the last decennial census in 1911 was 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of deaths recorded during 1919 was 1,675 or 22 per 1,000, the number of births was 1,427 or 18·8 per 1,000 of the population.

The population of Freetown, according to the 1911 census, was 34,090. The births registered during 1919 numbered 729 and the deaths 879. The figures show a birth-rate of 21·4 and a death-rate of 25·7 per 1,000 respectively.

The infantile death returns for Freetown for the last four years are subjoined :—

1916	218
1917	300
1918	404
1919	225

Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in the Colony but not in the Protectorate.

The annually recurring excess of deaths over births might suggest that the population of the Colony is steadily decreasing, but as there is a constant influx of Protectorate natives into the Peninsula, and as the strict enforcement of the Registration Ordinance presents some difficulty, the figures given must be accepted with caution.

Protectorate Population.

The population of the Protectorate at the census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of which number 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, whilst the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10 per house according to the custom of the tribe; the coming census will probably show an increase over the above figures.

Sanitation.

Anti-malaria measures both temporary and permanent were carried out on a fairly extensive scale in Freetown during the year. A large number of pools were dealt with by draining or filling up. The various streams in the Municipal area were regulated from time to time. Attention was paid to trees and water-bearing plants; 46,951 trees and plants have been inspected and dealt with. A certain amount of useful work was done in filling compounds with stone and rubble; 71 compounds and 380 square yards of open ground were treated. During the year 398 wells were closed. No case of yellow fever was reported in Sierra Leone during the year. About 4,000 rats were destroyed. No evidence of plague was found in any of the rats bacteriologically examined. The Colony and Protectorate were comparatively free from cases of small-pox. 47,702 vaccinations were performed. About 2,519 ft. of permanent concrete drainage were laid down as part of the Anti-Malarial Scheme.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

(*a*) *Revenue.*

The revenue for the year 1919 from all sources amounted to £748,779 as compared with £583,159 in the preceding year.

The actual receipts exceeded the estimates by £157,337.

The increase in revenue is principally due to the following causes:—

(*a*) An increase in Customs receipts, due in great part to the higher rate of specific duty imposed during the year.

(*b*) An increase of £17,442 in railway receipts.

The total revenue for the last five years is shown in the subjoined table:—

	£
1915	504,425
1916	551,106
1917	546,449
1918	583,159
1919	748,779

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £8,396 and the year ended in a cash balance of £37,744.

(*b*) *Expenditure.*

The total expenditure for the past five years has been as follows:—

	£
1915	546,771
1916	532,940
1917	512,843
1918	544,011
1919	740,383

(*c*) *Loan Expenditure.*

By the Public Works Loan Ordinance, 1913, the Governor was authorised to raise by loan a sum of £1,000,000 for the following purposes :—

	£
Redemption of Bonds of the 1904 Loan..	518,000
Railway Extension	232,000
Harbour Works	250,000

The net proceeds of this loan amounted to £942,827, while the total expenditure incurred up to the end of 1919 was £915,781. Of this, £308,480 was spent on railway extension, £112,736 on Freetown Harbour works, and £494,565 on redemption of bonds. There is thus a balance of £27,046 still unexpended. Only £2,337 was expended during the year.

(*d*) *Assets and Liabilities.*

At the end of the year there was an excess of assets over liabilities to the amount of £327,972, of which £161,961 represents the purchase price of securities held by the Crown Agents on account of surplus funds. On the 31st December, 1919, the market value of these securities was £107,041.

Among the assets are included unallocated stores in the Railway, Public Works Department, Railway Extension and Prisons Departments valued at £67,597. There is a sum of £10,874 which should be added to the excess of assets, as this sum still remains to be reimbursed to the general revenue by the City Council in repayment of the sum expended by the Government on the Freetown Water Works Extension Scheme.

(*e*) *Public Debt.*

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of the year amounted to £1,730,048. The amount standing to the credit of the sinking funds on the 31st December was £146,364.

The net liability of the Colony, therefore, amounted to £1,583,684 at the end of the year.

(*f*) *Currency.*

In addition to the Imperial coinage and the West African silver coinage, the five-franc piece of France, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland is legal tender in Sierra Leone, its value being fixed at 3s. 10½d. It was found necessary in 1916 to prohibit the importation of these coins owing to their depreciation in value, and prohibition is still in force.

Currency notes issued in the United Kingdom under the Currency and Bank Notes Act of 1914 are also legal tender.

The value of currency notes issued to the Banks for circulation amounted to £177,669 19s. at the end of the year, an increase of £78,419 19s. over the figures for 1918. The increase is due to the shortage of silver currency which prevailed during the greater part of the year.

III.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

The Customs revenue collected during 1919, after the deductions of drawbacks and refunds, amounted to £452,325, which shows an increase of £147,000 over the 1918 figure. In addition to the above the sum of £6,698 *ad valorem* and £65 specific duty was collected by the Post Office in respect of goods imported through the medium of the parcels post.

Ad Valorem Duty.—There was a decrease of £2,208 in the amount derived from *ad valorem* duty, which is attributable to smaller importations of cotton, hosiery, hats, caps, and umbrellas.

Specific Duty.—There was an increase of £112,339 in the amount collected from this duty. This is due to the higher rates imposed during the year and also, in no small measure, to increased importations of unmanufactured tobacco. Nearly double the quantity of this tobacco was imported in 1919 as compared with 1918, the figures being 2,939,337 lb. as against 1,546,469 lb. despite the fact that its price was increased over 100 per cent. It is not to be assumed that the demand for tobacco was abnormal; the explanation of the increase in quantity is that the restoration of shipping facilities enabled the merchants to replenish their heavily-depleted stocks.

Importations of spirits show a decrease both in quantity and value. Over 2,000 gallons less whiskey was imported than in 1918, yet the cost has increased to such an extent that the value of the smaller quantity imported in 1919 is only a little over £700 less than the cost of the greater imports of 1918. The imports for the year 1919 were 17,887 gallons as compared with 19,953 gallons in the previous year.

Hides.—There was a satisfactory increase in both the quantity and value exported, the figures for 1919 being 10,692 valued at £5,727 as against 8,470 hides to the value of £3,488. In view of the fact that in past years the United Kingdom enjoyed a generous share of this trade, it is remarkable that all the hides exported were shipped to Conakry, thence to be re-exported to France. The average price in 1919 was about 1s. per lb. as compared with 9d. in 1918, and the higher prices ruling induced the shipment of certain stocks which had accumulated since 1917.

Export Duty.—The increase in revenue from exports amounted to nearly 100 per cent., the figures for 1919 being £62,933 and those for 1918 £31,957. This increase is due to the larger exportations of palm kernels, palm oil, and kola nuts, and to the higher rate of duty on palm kernels and palm oil imposed by Order in Council No. 8 of 1919.

Although the amount of duty received from Sherbro is still far below the yield of pre-war years, the return for 1919 shows a gratifying increase. In the past, trade spirits contributed liberally to the revenue collected at this port. In 1913 the amount derived from that source alone was £52,693. The prohibition of the importation of trade spirits, which took effect on the 1st April, 1919, effectually extinguished this source of revenue.

The gross revenue derived from import and export duties in the Port of Sherbro amounted to £49,462 and from those in Freetown to £386,756.

(*a*) *Imports.*

The value of the Imports for the years 1915 to 1919 is as follows :—

1915	£1,080,031
1916	1,135,667
1917	1,332,752
1918	1,680,336
1919	2,034,870

Commercial imports amounted in value to £1,980,382 as compared with £1,652,184 in 1918. Government imports showed a marked increase. These imports amounted to £54,488 as compared with £28,152 in 1918.

(*b*) *Exports.*

The following table shows the Exports from the Colony for the five years 1915 to 1919:—

	£
1915	1,223,544
1916	1,254,621
1917	1,497,995
1918	1,516,871
1919	2,101,569

The value of the exports of the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone in 1919 was £1,806,736 as compared with £1,189,271 in 1918.

The importation of trade spirits into the Colony and Protectorate was prohibited from the 31st March, 1919, the only spirits of this nature allowed to be imported after that date being those shipped prior to the promulgation of the Prohibition Ordinance. A further restriction was placed on the importation of spirits by the Order that the quantity imported by any firm in 1919 should not exceed the quantity imported by that firm in 1918. The reduction of imports consequent on this decision was counteracted to some extent by an increase of duty in July, and a second and much larger increase on the 10th December. The net result is a moderate increase in the amount of duty derived from spirits.

The total quantity of spirits imported in 1919 was less by about 20 per cent. than the quantity imported in 1918. It was roughly one-eighth of the quantity imported in 1913. This is accounted for, of course, by the total exclusion of this class of spirits formerly described and accepted as trade spirits.

The steady improvement in the trade of the Colony is noticeable. The figures recorded for 1919 are the highest in the Colony's history. Expansion is evident in all branches of trade—imports, exports, and shipping. The value of imports as well as that of exports shows a distinct advance, and although in these days of inflated prices figures are of little significance a certain interest is attached to the fact that the aggregate trade of the Colony, viz.: imports, less specie, and exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony, together exceeded the aggregate of 1918 by £971,999, the respective totals being:—

	£
1918	2,869,607
1919	3,841,606

The exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony show a remarkable expansion. This must be attributed to the release from Government control of the principal items of the produce of the Colony. The local market responds readily to any fluctuation in the price of produce in Europe, and immediately release from Government control was effected prices paid locally rose to an unprecedented extent.

The Colony is to be congratulated on the fact that the excess of imports over exports, which amounted at the end of 1918 to £163,465, has, at the end of 1919, been converted into an excess of exports over imports amounting to £12,757.

On the whole the statement of trade must be regarded as satisfactory. Despite the general shortage of material, the heavy loss sustained by shipping, and the general disorganisation of industry, the trade of the Colony shows evidence of extension.

Sierra Leone Products.

Palm Kernels.—In the year under review conditions generally were more favourable than in 1918 for the harvesting and movement of this product. There resulted the large increase in export of 9,806 tons, valued at £508,470. Shipping facilities were more regular and at no time was there any serious lack of labour such as that experienced during the influenza epidemic.

The quantity of kernels exported during the year, 50,622 tons, exceeds the quantity exported in 1913 by 1,421 tons. The value of the 1919 shipment is £270,664 greater than that of 1913.

The price of this commodity rose after it was released from Government control on the 31st May; the highest monthly average in the European market being £45 a ton in July and August, when kernels were purchased for £28 per ton in Freetown and from £22 to £25 a ton in Sherbro and the Protectorate. At the close of the year the price in Europe was £39 10s. a ton, in Freetown £25 to £26, and in Sherbro and the Protectorate £21 to £23.

Palm Oil.—The shipment of 1919, 828,750 gallons, shows an enormous advance over that of the preceding year. It is also the highest in a period of ten years. From the time of decontrol prices were at a high level, and the stimulus of the correspondingly high local price had a good effect on supplies. The year closed with palm oil at £48 a ton in Freetown and £45 10s. in the Protectorate and Sherbro districts. Applying these figures to one of the best known local measures, a 4-gallon kerosine tin full of palm oil brings the producer from 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., the price within that range being governed by the distance from Freetown to the place of purchase. So long as this price prevails the native is prepared to transport his produce for considerable distances on his back.

Of the total quantity of oil exported 819,375 gallons went to the United Kingdom.

Kola Nuts.—Owing to the more extensive cultivation of the kola tree and a successful crop the shipment of this nut in 1919 exceeded the quantity shipped in 1918 by 693 tons; 2,995 tons being exported in the former year as against 2,302 in the latter. The value of the 1919 exports was £417,378.

The bulk of the trade in kola nuts is in the hands of Syrian merchants, and the anti-Syrian disturbances in July, 1919, interfered seriously with the movements of this product. Ousted from their stores and houses and unable, owing to the existing racial ill-feeling in Freetown, to employ native labour, the Syrians found their usual business entirely suspended. Losing the impetus of Syrian competition prices immediately after the riots fell as low as £2 a measure of 176 lb. and for some time did not rise above £4 a measure. It is not surprising, therefore, to find the average price for 1919 distinctly lower than that for 1918, the former being approximately £7 and the latter £8 10s. per cwt., or £11 and £13 10s. per measure respectively.

Ginger.—The total export of ginger in 1919 was 1,069 tons, valued at £31,110. Compared with the figures for the previous year there is a decrease of 507 tons valued at £8,196. Prices ruling during the year do not compare favourably with the 1918 prices and to this fact can be attributed the falling off in shipments. The chief customers for ginger in 1919 were the United States of America and the United Kingdom, each taking roughly two-thirds of their previous year's purchases. The small balance remaining went to the Gambia and Senegal. In considering the decrease it should be remembered that considerable stocks were carried over from 1917 to 1918, thus inflating the export figures of the latter year. The average price per cwt. in 1919 was £2 9s. 7d. as compared with £4 10s. in the previous year.

Piassava.—There was a substantial increase in the shipment of piassava during the year 1919, due to the higher prices ruling in the European markets. The exports for the year were 1,059 tons valued at £32,172 as against 569 tons valued at £15,065 in 1918, an increase of 490 tons valued at £17,107. The quantity exported, however, is infinitesimal when compared to the vast amount of raw material available.

Shipping.

The tonnage given in the accompanying shipping statistics is in every case the net register tonnage borne on the vessels' certificate of registry.

Eight hundred and ninety-nine vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,016,699 entered and cleared as compared with 822 aggregating 1,736,247 tons in 1918. The figures for 1919 include 119 sailing vessels entered and cleared of an aggregate tonnage of 6,348 as against 132 aggregating 4,404 in 1918.

The above figures relate to merchant vessels only, and the number and tonnage of vessels employed by the Admiralty are excluded. The increase in tonnage is principally due to British vessels.

The subjoined table shows the total shipping homewards and outwards for the years 1917 to 1919 :—

Year.	Homewards.		Outwards.		Totals.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1917	386	764,248	388	762,392	774	1,526,640
1918	410	868,776	411	867,471	821	1,736,247
1919	449	1,006,658	450	1,010,041	899	2,016,699

The principal lines of steamers which traded with Sierra Leone during the years 1918 and 1919 are given below :—

	1918.		1919.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Elder Dempster & Co.	—	—	8	23,165
British & African Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.	83	207,321	117	321,638
Eastern Telegraph Company	8	4,082	4	1,620
African Steamship Company	41	108,026	66	191,744
Bromport Steamship Company	17	15,646	16	15,537
Elder Line	26	67,527	35	100,809
Union Castle Line	11	56,722	3	13,712
Imperial Direct Line, Ltd.	14	46,532	10	32,608
Booth Steamship Company	2	3,672	—	—
Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo ..	1	4,792	2	9,584
Bull Line	—	—	2	7,124
Miscellaneous	142	351,776	126	286,465
	345	866,096	389	1,004,006

Agriculture.

The principal station at N'Jala, and the sub-stations at Bumpe (devoted to cacao), Batkanu, Yongro, and Waterloo continued their work of experimental plantation and agricultural education. During the year under review a college for training boys in the vernacular was initiated at N'Jala, one of the principal objects of which is to provide teachers trained in agriculture for the enlightenment of native farmers. It is hoped that as a result of the training given at this college agriculturalists of the Protectorate will eventually become convinced as to the wastefulness of the present custom of clearing fresh land annually, and the proper methods of manuring, irrigation and rotation of crops will gradually be introduced.

The rice crop, so vital to the population of Sierra Leone, was seriously affected by the famine of 1918, since the amount of seed-rice which would normally have been available had been to a serious extent consumed by the hunger-stricken people. The total area under rice was thus smaller than in previous years ; fortunately the areas sown on the whole produced good crops, nevertheless the shortage of rice was very severely felt during the current year and it became necessary to import large quantities of Indian rice. Farm produce and natural products, such as ginger and kola, piassava and palm products, have had a good year, and on the whole have enjoyed an excellent market.

The cultivation of cacao and coffee continues to increase in the Northern Sherbro district despite the low prices which usually prevail, and the fact that only one or two of the trading firms are prepared to purchase the beans. Both industries have received encouragement from the Agricultural Department and planters have profited by the advice they have received when their plantations have been inspected. There can be little doubt that the climatic and other conditions in the Northern Sherbro district are more favourable for the successful cultivation of cacao than elsewhere in the Protectorate.

Forestry.

The principal work of the Forestry Department during the year was the demarcation of the Nimini Hills reserve. The reservation of the Kambui Hills was completed towards the end of the year.

The Kessewe Hills (Gum Copal) reserve was opened to gum collectors in October, 1919.

Four areas in the Ronietta district were declared " restricted area " under the Forestry Ordinance No. 8 of 1912, and opened to gum tappers under the supervision of the Forestry Department.

A small amount of re-afforestation was done in the Kambui Hills during the rainy season.

Forestry in Sierra Leone presents a difficult but important problem. Re-afforestation on a considerable scale is out of the question as the finances of the Colony could not stand it even at a conservative estimate of £5 an acre. Under the existing system of agriculture obtaining in the southern portion of the Protectorate, in which vast areas of forest regrowth occur, and where the population is at its densest, a family occupies five or six times as much land as is actually required in any one year for agricultural purposes. The reason is that the farmer relies on forest regrowth (principally leguminous trees) to re-establish the fertility of the soil after he has raised a single crop ; the farm therefore lies fallow from five to seven years. The land is cleared for cultivation by felling the dense regrowth and then burning it, the surface afterwards being lightly hoed. As far as possible the roots and stumps are left intact in order that regrowth may establish itself as quickly as possible. Each section of the land is in turn dealt with in this way until the first plot is once more fit for cultivation. If questioned, the farmer himself assures one that he obtains better results from this system than from any other method with which he is acquainted, provided always the regrowth is allowed to attain a certain size before it is felled. The problem, therefore, in these areas is to educate the farmer to more paying and scientific methods of cultivation, and to induce him to utilise swamp lands to a greater extent, in order that some portions of this vast area of regrowth may be allowed to revert to forest.

In the north the same conditions prevail but to a far lesser extent as the population is thinner and larger areas of scrub and grass remain uncultivated, whilst there is comparatively little forest regrowth. The problem here would appear to be the prevention and regulation of grass-fires which sweep over the country with devastating effect and destroy seedlings and existing trees. These fires must not be confused with the annual burning of farms in the south, as these latter fires are carefully regulated and seldom do any harm to the surrounding regrowth, except in certain areas where owing to frequent farming the land has not been given sufficient time to revert to regrowth and grass has commenced to prevail. The chiefs themselves assert that the " regrowth " system of farming fosters the growth and increase of oil palm trees. It seems probable that there is a good deal in this statement although it may be the only redeeming feature in an extremely wasteful method of cultivation. That the farmer realises the necessity of preserving forest regrowth as being of vital importance to his system of agriculture is clearly evinced by the fact that although the present system has prevailed for generations in the most densely populated portions of the Protectorate vast areas of regrowth still occur.

Lands.—Colony.

The lands in the Colony were ceded to the British Government under various treaties dating from about 1787. So far as is known, no rights in the land prior to 1807 have ever been claimed and it is held that all claims to the land in the Peninsula are based on ground grants or prescriptions as against the Crown.

Owing to the lack of any continuous control over Crown lands since the foundation of the Colony, a great deal of valuable land has, by squatting, come under private ownership, with the result that the Government is now liable to be called upon to pay, at high rates, for land required for public works. Alienations of this nature are still taking place and it is to-day a matter of the greatest difficulty to ascertain what is, and what is not, Crown land.

It has been the policy of the Government in recent years not to sell any land but to grant licences, which can be terminated at short notice.

The increase in the value of land during recent years has been most marked and in the business thoroughfares of Freetown sites are to-day selling at rates varying from 5s. to £2 per square yard.

In the Protectorate no power exists whereby the tribal authority is enabled to sell land in its chiefdom to non-natives. Land may be leased by Europeans for fixed periods from the tribal authority (with the assent of the Administration) but it may not be alienated.

The Protectorate Native Law Ordinance (No. 16 of 1905), the Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance (No. 16 of 1903), and the Concessions Ordinance (No. 8 of 1902) with its subsequent amending Ordinances, are the most important pieces of legislation affecting land tenure in the Protectorate.

IV.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

(*a*) The whole past of the country, so far as it can be ascertained, appears to have been bound up with agriculture. Minerals are few and scarce. A geological survey of the country was commenced in August, 1919, and is still proceeding ; so far no discoveries likely to be of commercial importance have been reported. There are, however, considerate deposits of laterite iron ores which would be valuable should a process of treating titaniferous iron ores be discovered and developed in the future.

Sierra Leone is rich in palm products, and it needs but a reference to the figures given in Section III of this Report to see how predominantly the export of palm kernels and palm oil affects her well-being. These commodities are shipped home in the raw state ; a possible development is the establishment of local mills for the expression of palm oil, palm kernel oil and the maufacture of cattle cake. Up to the present, however, little or nothing has transpired from the granting of lands for the exclusive erection of such mills.

Other products are : kola nuts, great quantities of which are annually exported to the Gambia and to Senegal ; piassava, exported to the United Kingdom and to France ; and a low grade of ginger. In spite of the fact that the coconut palm does well in Sierra Leone, there is practically no trade in copra.

There is valuable timber in the country but not very much of it, the forests originally in the country having largely been destroyed. Varieties are : real African oak (at one time exported as teak), monkey apple, teak, African oak, and camwood.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government officers were furnished by the Imperial Institute to the Government of Sierra Leone during the year, as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by commercial experts.

In addition, information relating to various products of the Colony was supplied to enquirers.

Po-Yak Nuts and Oil.—A small consignment of Po-Yak nuts (Parinarium sp.) was forwarded for examination in continuation of a previous investigation. The kernels of the nuts contain a drying oil which could be used in the same manner as Tung oil in the manufacture of paints and varnishes, etc., its market value would probably be about the same as that of Tung oil.

The composition of the meal left after the extraction of the oil from the kernels is fairly satisfactory, but the percentage of proteins present is lower than is usually found in oilseed residues. Practical trials would be necessary in order to determine the suitability of the meal as a feeding stuff for cattle.

The Imperial Institute has drawn the attention of the firms interested in drying oils to this Po-Yak oil and from their reports it is clear that either the nuts or the oil would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom if obtained in commercial quantities at a suitable price. The Imperial Institute has suggested that a few tons of the kernels should be forwarded to the United Kingdom so that crushing trials can be made and the value of the oil and meal definitely determined.

Cocoa.—Four samples of cocoa prepared at a Government experimental farm consisted of beans of rather mixed size and appearance but of normal composition. The preparation had not been altogether satisfactory and the quality was regarded by manufacturers and brokers as somewhat inferior to that of standard West Coast beans.

Kowe Fibre.—The sample was well cleaned and prepared, of good colour and fair strength. The fibre is very coarse, harsh, and interlaced, and only suitable for the spinning of heavy-sized yarns or for the manufacture of coarse string and rope.

The following articles relating to products from Sierra Leone or to subjects of special interest to that country were published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" for 1919:—

Cocoa production in the British Empire.
The Mechanical Properties of the West African "Pooli" timber.
Ash of the leaves and wood of the African Tragacanth.

Industry.

The industries of Sierra Leone are few and are only such as meet the requirements of the people themselves. The following are the principal in order of importance:—

Fishing, and drying fish for sale in the interior. This is a considerable industry employing many thousands of natives.
Weaving Country Cloth.
Iron Work.
Wood Work, including boat building and canoes.
Pottery.

The above are purely native industries. Deep-sea fishing with steam trawlers has been tried, but failed owing to lack of ice and drying plant.

V.—BANKS AND GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANKS.

There are two banks operating in the Colony; the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank. They transact all usual banking business. The former bank has a branch at Sherbro in the Southern Province and agencies at Bo, Blama, Kennema, Segbwema, and Pendembu in the Protectorate.

Post Office Savings Banks.

The deposits numbered 10,883 and amounted to £47,255 9s. 3d., showing a decrease of 1,862 in number and an increase of £1,609 15s. 4d. in value when compared with the previous year. The withdrawals totalled 7,331 and amounted to £54,238 5s. 6d., showing an increase of 644 in number and a decrease of £395 0s. 7d. in value in comparison with the figures for 1918.

The total sum invested is £99,263 8s. 6d. and the dividends received on investments amounted to £3,506 11s. 8d. The interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £2,230 8s. 10d.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

During the year nine Ordinances were passed. Two of these (Nos. 7 and 8) being enactments for expenditure. Of the other Ordinances, the most important are :—

No. 3. An Ordinance to prohibit the importation into the Colony or Protectorate of Trade Spirits and to control the importation of other spirits.

No. 4. An Ordinance to provide for the payment of an Export Duty upon Palm Kernels exported to Foreign Countries.

The remainder do not call for any special remarks.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in the Colony and Protectorate by means of :—

(*a*) Elementary, Intermediate, and Secondary Missionary and Proprietary Schools.
(*b*) The Bo School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs (Government).
(*c*) The Government Model School.
(*d*) The N'Jala Agricultural Training School (Government).
(*e*) The Bumpe Government School.
(*f*) Government Mohammedan Schools.
(*g*) Government Anglo-Vernacular Schools.
(*h*) Industrial Schools (Missionary).
(*i*) The Government Training Institute for Teachers.
(*j*) The Diocesan Technical School.
(*k*) The Fourah Bay College (University of Durham).

	Assisted.	*Unassisted.*	*Total.*
Elementary and Intermediate ..	115	48	163
Secondary Schools	3	7	10
Industrial Schools	4	1	5
Government Schools and Institutions	—	—	12
Diocesan Technical School	1	—	1
Fourah Bay College	—	1	1
	123	57	192

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate figures for the various bodies concerned, an approximate figure has to be given of the number of pupils on the rolls of these institutions, *i.e.* 12,401 ; it may then be computed that 1 unit out of 15 in the Colony and 1 out of 1,200 in the Protectorate attend some educational institute or the other.

The following figures show the number of elementary and intermediate schools, assisted and unassisted, belonging to the several denominations. Enrolment and average attendance are also given.

Denomination.	*No. of Schools.*	*No. on Roll.*	*Average Attendance.*
Church of England	56	3,814	2,628
Wesleyan Methodist	30	2,070	1,305
United Methodist	17	852	549
Roman Catholic	8	780	629
Countess of Huntingdon Connexion	9	476	310
African Methodist Episcopal ..	6	222	153
United Brethren in Christ	32	876	572
American Wesleyan	2	35	32
Society for Propagation of the Gospel	1	28	14
Seventh Day Adventist	2	113	93
	163	9,266	6,285

This is the first occasion on which the Report deals with all elementary and intermediate schools in the Colony and Protectorate; figures were not available in the previous year for many of the unassisted Protectorate schools; consequently no comparison can be effected between 1918 and 1919.

The total income from all sources of the 115 assisted elementary and intermediate schools was £11,244; school fees amounted to £1,185; the total expenditure was £10,335; and the total amount of Government Grant was £4,429.

In addition to the usual inspections, two examinations are held annually for both assisted and unassisted schools. The Elementary Certificate Examination demands a Standard III. proficiency, additional subjects set being Geography and Hygiene and Sanitation; the latter is compulsory in all assisted schools. Stress is laid on simple grammatical English and orderly exposition in Arithmetic. Candidates who pass the Intermediate Certificate Examination can write a good letter or essay and have a competent knowledge of Arithmetic up to simple interest; in the Arithmetic paper, the question which deals with the Metric System is compulsory. This has been made a standard examination by the ruling that after the 1st January, 1922, no application for the Civil Service Entrance Examination will be entertained unless the applicant has previously gained the Intermediate Certificate. It may be added that the Education Code, 1916, is working very satisfactorily. The numbers of candidates for and passes in these examinations were as follows:—

	Candidates.	*Passes.*
Elementary Certificate Examination	486	151
Intermediate Certificate Examination	110	26

Secondary Schools.

There are 10 Secondary schools in the Colony, 8 Missionary and 2 Proprietary; of these, 3 are assisted. The figures for the assisted schools are as follows:—

No. of Schools.	*No. enrolled.*	*Average Attendance.*
3	233	183

The total grant-in-aid was £269 as compared with £272 in the previous year. Very few unassisted schools have returned figures; the approximate total enrolment of all secondary schools, boys and girls, is 1,200. The three assisted schools showed distinct progress at the last annual inspection. A higher standard has been set and attained in English and Mathematics. The Albert Academy (United Brethren Mission) holds a unique position among these schools; a most efficient workshop is attached to this institution where pupils are encouraged to work their way through the school.

Industrial (Trades) Schools.

These are five in number; one at Waterloo in the Colony is unassisted; all the others are assisted, situated in the Protectorate, and conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission. The total enrolment and average attendance were as follows :—

Assisted.	*Unassisted.*	*No. enrolled.*	*Average Attendance.*
4	—	152	126
—	1	113	93
4	1	265	219

These schools are rapidly developing into centres of sound useful work. Cabinet-making, joinery, blacksmiths' work, shoemaking, and building are the principal trades practised. The total grant earned by the assisted schools was £215.

Government Schools and Institutions.

The enrolment and average attendance at the Government Model School inclusive of Secondary Classes and the Training Institute were as follows :—

No. enrolled.	*Average attendance.*
319	257

A high standard is maintained in elementary and intermediate subjects; the aim is a thorough training in English, Arithmetic, Geography, Hygiene and Sanitation, and Hand and Eye work. The secondary classes prepare for the Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Examinations.

There are five Mohammedan schools or Madrasses for boys and girls. The roll number and average attendance were 655 and 392 respectively as compared with 641 and 368 in the previous year.

There are two Anglo-Vernacular schools, one at Baiima Central Province supervised by the Principal, Bo School, and the other at Gbangbama, Southern Province.

The most promising of recent foundations is the N'Jala Agricultural College for the training of vernacular school teachers, situated at the Headquarters of the Agricultural Department; this boarding school, with an enrolment of 50, is intended to produce teachers with a sound practical knowledge of agriculture. Work began in October and already good progress has been made. The enrolment by the end of 1921 should be 120, representatives of Mende, Temne and Sherbro peoples.

University Education.

The only University College in West Africa is that at Fourah Bay, which is affiliated to Durham University.

The average number of students keeping term was 26; 17 students matriculated during the year.

The College has been staffed, controlled, and financed for the past 92 years by the Church Missionary Society.

Protectorate Schools.

There was an increase of seven in the number of pupils on the roll at the Boarding School at Bo for sons and nominees of Chiefs. There being 140 at the beginning of the year and 147 at the end. Eighteen new pupils were admitted during the year, while 11 went out either to appointments in the Protectorate or back to their Chiefdoms.

Fees collected during the year amounted to £910, there being 19 free pupils.

At the Government Elementary Day School at Bumpe the average attendance for the year was 45. This is lower than it has been since the opening of the school in 1915: this is partly due to low attendance during the hungry season, but also to the impossibility of inspection from Bo owing to the shortness of European staff there throughout the year.

For the same reasons there was a drop in the average attendance at the Vernacular Day School at Baiima which went down to 23·4. Steady progress was, however, made in both these schools in the class-work and it is hoped when a normal staff of Europeans can be got out for Bo that more frequent inspections will tend to revive the interest taken by the Chiefs in the work being done and cause attendance to be restored to the figures of past years.

VIII.—CLIMATE.

The mean maximum temperature at Tower Hill Observatory was 87·66 F., while the mean minimum temperature was 65·96 F. The rainfall was 117·94 in. The subjoined table gives the observations taken in 1919 at certain out-stations:—

1919.

Station.	*Mean Air Temperature in Shade, F.* *Maximum.*	*Minimum.*	*Total Rainfall. Ins.*
Batkanu	85·1	64·9	Records lacking
Bo	88·03	78·7	139·
Bonthe	87·0	74·04	140·38
Daru	89·06	68·52	106·69
Kaballa	88·75	65·0	103·77
Kissy	88·1	72·53	96·47
Moyamba	87·2	65·3	94·58

The climate of Sierra Leone is hot and moist. It can, for the purposes of this report, be divided into two seasons of six months each ; a dry season and a rainy season. So far as the Colony is concerned, the dry season can be said to commence on the 1st November and end on the 1st May, the remaining six months being the rainy season. In many parts of the Protectorate, the rains set in and end somewhat earlier. Tornadoes or violent thunderstorms occur at the commencement and close of the rainy season. Between the months of December and March the wind known as " Harmattan " is prevalent. Its direction ranges from N.E. to S.E. and it is very dry, often bringing with it a fine dust said to come from the Sahara.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(*a*) *Railway.*

The main line of the Government Railway extends from Freetown to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. A branch line runs from Boai to Kamabai a distance of 104 miles. A line 5¾ miles long runs from Freetown to Hill Station. There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus at Freetown with the Government quarry and the cemetery at Ascension Town. The gauge is 2 ft. 6 in. The total mileage open to traffic, exclusive of sidings, was 338.

The railway revenue amounted to £175,441 and the expenditure to £204,517, as compared with £148,962 and £142,200 in 1918.

	1918.			1919.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts per open mile	441	0	0	519	0	0
Receipts per train mile		7	5		8	4
Working expense per open mile ..	421	0	0	456	0	0
Working expense per train mile ..		7	0		7	4

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotive engines, 98 coaching vehicles, and 363 goods vehicles, including 2 break-down vans and two sand wagons in addition to a travelling crane.

(*b*) *Roads.*

Very considerable progress was made in the extension of the road system of the Colony and Protectorate, and in the improvement and widening of existing roads. At the close of the year a total of 156 miles of " first class roads " (suitable for motor traffic), 427 miles of " second class roads " (all not yet available for such traffic) were open in the Protectorate. Where permanent bridges have been erected, they consist of concrete abutments with concrete or steel decking ; bridges with timber decking have concrete abutments and steel girders ; whilst the temporary bridges on other roads are of unsawed native timber lashed together with native ropes. Permanent bridges are generally 12 ft. in width. The roads are gradually being brought to a standard width of 18 ft. There are also some 1,300 miles of " third class roads." These are for the most part some 4 ft. to 8 ft. wide, with temporary stick bridges, and are known locally as " hammock roads."

In the Colony the work of improving transport conditions was carried out according to plan. During the year it became for the first time possible to motor comfortably throughout Freetown. Outside the city 17 miles of roads became available for motor traffic. In particular, motor communication between Freetown and Hill Station was established.

As a result of these improvements, a large number of motor cars and lorries are now in use.

(*c*) *Waterways.*

The Sherbro River is navigable for 20 miles (up to York Island) for sea-going vessels. From that point a network of waterways extends in all directions; in particular, it is possible for launches to reach Mopalma along the Kittum River (about 80 miles) all the year, and Pujehun during the wet season. Similarly launches of shallow draft can reach Sumbuya during the wet season. Much of the produce of the Southern Province is thus transferred to Bonthe. Further north, the Sierra Leone or Rokelle River is navigable by small craft for 40 miles (as far as Magbile), and there is considerable trade with Freetown along this route. Port Lokko, situated at the head of a creek some 40 miles from Freetown, can also be reached by launch.

There are other considerable rivers in the Protectorate, such as the Great and Little Scarcies, and the Moa, but these are only navigable in part, and by small boats.

(*d*) *Postal Service.*

The number of Postal Offices and Postal Agencies open at the end of the year was 43. Money Order business was transacted at 19 offices and Postal Order business at 34.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,615,113, as compared with 1,435,728 in 1918.

The Money Order transactions numbered 7,587 and amounted to £103,842, showing a decrease of 405 in number and an increase of £2 in amount when compared with the figures of the previous year.

Postal Orders issued numbered 44,485 and amounted to £31,443, as compared with 43,082 to the value of £29,370 in 1918. 37,966 Orders amounting to £27,784 were paid, a decrease of 7,657 in number and £4,196 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The Postal revenue totalled £10,503, showing an increase of £2,028 as compared with 1918. The Customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £6,772, and stamps to the value of £3,876 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £11,885, which shows a decrease of £857 when compared with the figures of 1918.

(*e*) *Telegraphs and Telephones.*

Telegraph and Telephone services are in operation between Freetown and Pendembu (227½ miles). There are two important transmitting centres at Boia, 64½ miles, and at Bo, 136 miles up the line; also two subtransmitting stations—one at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to Port Lokko, and the other at Mano, whence the telegraph lines branch through Serabu and Sengema to Bendu, a distance of 71½ miles. There is also a telegraph line from Sengema to Pujehun, a distance of 47 miles; and a telegraph and telephone service between Boia and Kamabai on the branch line.

There is a public telephone exchange in Freetown which has considerably extended in the course of the year.

Telegrams can now be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

There is a wireless station in Freetown under the control of the same Company.

XV.—LIST OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS LIKELY TO BE OF INTEREST.

Sierra Leone Royal Gazette ..	Annual subscription		£1 0s. 0d.
Revised Laws of Sierra Leone—			
Cloth, Vol. I.	2s. 6d. ;	half-calf	4s. 0d.
,, ,, II.	3s. 6d.	,,	5s. 6d.
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W. B. STANLEY,

(*Acting Colonial Secretary*).

FREETOWN,

22nd December, 1920.

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No. 1090.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1065.)

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No. 1090.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1920.*

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Sierra Leone, consisting of the Colony and Protectorate, is about the size of Ireland (30,000 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of west longitude. The greatest depth from north to south is rather over 200 miles, and from west to east about 180 miles.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Bonthe Island and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, as it is a port of call for ocean-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,700 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds. These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 851

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land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 330 square miles and its population, including Freetown, numbers about 80,000.

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account during the Great War Freetown Harbour was of great importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets, thanks to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who formed the nucleus of a well-planned town. During the past twelve years a number of fine buildings and offices have been erected, and during the past five years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time over a hundred motor vehicles ply in Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there is a large reservation of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is about 40,000.

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for ocean-going steamers, and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. Speaking generally, the Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are at least eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, which forms part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel to Turner's Peninsula (formerly part of the Colony), is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards Sherbro Island even in the dry season, and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain ports on the Sewa and Wanje rivers.

The nature of the country also varies considerably. Roughly speaking, a line drawn due east from Freetown indicates approximately the point at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south merges with the more open thinly-wooded, grassy country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of nearly 50 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is considerably denser in the southern or forest regrowth belt (locally known as " bush " country).

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is now divided into three provinces under Provincial Commissioners; each province is subdivided into four districts under District Commissioners.

The population of the Protectorate is now estimated at 1,500,000 and is composed of the following tribes:—

Northern Province..	Susus, Yalunkas, Karankos, Limbas, Lokkos, and Timnes, with some Mandingoes and Fullahs.
Central Province ..	Konnos, Kissis and Mendes.
Southern Province..	Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Mendes.

The Mendes are far more numerous than the other tribes. The largest towns in the Protectorate have a population of about 2,000, but these are comparatively few in number; the bulk of the population resides in villages ranging in size from 30 to 100 houses.

HISTORICAL.

In one respect the history of Sierra Leone differs from that of other British West African colonies; from the commencement Sierra Leone was really a colony and not merely a trading station. Her colonists were certain Africans who became stranded in London after the close of the American War in 1782, in which they had taken part, and certain Europeans presumably seeking adventure. In 1787 a party of these colonists, under Captain Thompson of the Royal Navy, to whom had been entrusted the task of forming a settlement, landed at Sierra Leone and succeeded in obtaining from the local chief (King Tom) a grant of land of about 20 square miles on the site which is at present occupied by Freetown. This grant was subsequently confirmed in 1788 by the paramount chief (Nembanna, which, strictly speaking, means Regent Chief), who ceded the land for ever on receiving payment.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from native chiefs. In 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate ; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy, then engaged in suppressing the overseas slave traffic.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Timnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 King Farima and King Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies. In 1808 the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company was transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed. From this date the condition of the Colony commenced to improve. It is interesting to note that from 1814 to 1888, a period of 74 years, 18 Governors or Acting Governors (with the exception of one who was killed) died in Sierra Leone or on their way home from the Colony, out of a total of 60 different officers who administered the Government during that period.

About 1820 the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland and a number of treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullon—were ceded to the Crown ; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. About 1852 the Government of the Colony began to make its weight felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. The same year the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony. In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the Northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the Eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was proclaimed a Protectorate and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate, which commenced in the Karene District by the refusal of a Timne chief (Bai Bureh) to pay the House Tax, which was being imposed for the first time. In April the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved.

Early in the following year the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful. Progress has, perhaps, been slower than in other West African Colonies, but it has been steady.

I. GENERAL.

At the beginning of the year the prices of the staple exports of the Colony were high, employment was good, and these largely counteracted the high cost of living caused by the price of imported goods and of native foodstuffs.

During the year the Colony was threatened with a serious shortage of rice. The crop of the previous year was hardly sufficient for the needs of the Protectorate population and the amount of native rice brought into the Colony was inadequate. Prices rose rapidly. Rice was not permitted to be exported from the United Kingdom except under permit, and the price at which it could be sold in Freetown put it far beyond the means of the poorer classes in the community. Under these circumstances the Government became the sole importer of rice and arranged for its sale at a reasonable price, establishing various depôts throughout Freetown, and supplying rice as required to the districts. Eight hundred and seventy tons were imported, the greater part of which was sold by the end of the year. While the quantity imported was by no means adequate for the rationing of Freetown even, it was sufficient to stabilise prices and prevent hoarding of, and profiteering in, the supplies available in the country. The rice was sold at a loss, which had to be borne out of the revenue of the Colony, but the loss to the Colony would have been much greater had there been no regulation of prices. There would have been widespread distress and discontent and it would have been impossible to resist demands for further increases in wages and salaries.

In the Protectorate the most important circumstance was the division of the Protectorate into three Provinces. The arrangements for this were complete about the middle of the year. The change has been found to lead to greater administrative efficiency.

While the year was a prosperous one, the prosperity was, when carefully considered, largely fictitious, being based on inflated prices that could not be expected to continue for long, and at the end of the year it was evident that the commercial and industrial depression in Europe in the last quarter of the year would react severely on the prosperity of Sierra Leone.

II. FINANCIAL.

(*a*) *Revenue.*

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £999,382, as compared with £748,779 in 1919, and exceeded the Estimates by £242,005.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1919 and 1920.

	1913.	1919.	1920.
Customs	£317,463	£441,711	£630,052
Light Dues	6,938	6,304	8,029
Licences	79,745	73,723	74,762
Fees of Court	17,853	25,675	29,336
Post Office	14,487	11,666	11,994
Rents	417	548	473
Interest..	12,324	12,329	18,942
Miscellaneous	1,821	1,381	13,817
Railway	167,304	175,442	201,092
Land Sales	31	—	11
Reimbursement by Freetown Water Authority	—	—	10,874
Total	£618,383	£748,779	£999,382

1913 was the last complete year of peace working and a large revenue was derived from duties on trade spirits.

The high revenue for the year is to be attributed to the high prices paid for produce and the equally high prices of imported goods and to the imposition of an export duty on palm kernels, palm oil and kola nuts.

(*b*) *Expenditure.*

The expenditure for the year amounted to the sum of £843,403, as compared with £740,383 in 1919, and exceeded the Estimate by £74,102.

All departments showed increases, the most significant being the increase in pensions and gratuities from £8,228 in 1913 to £21,497 in 1920, the Prisons from £8,633 to £26,722, and the Railway Department £146,060 to £254,303. The increases are due to increases of salaries and increases of cost of materials.

The statement of expenditure does not include the expenses of compensating Syrians for their losses during the anti-Syrian riots, as the Commission had not completed its work by the end of the year and payments made are still shown as " Awards—Syrians " till a final adjustment can be made ; nor does it show the net cost to the Government of the sale of rice under cost price during the period of scarcity.

(*c*) *Loan Expenditure.*

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 amounted to £942,827. Of this £494,565 was spent on the redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,550 on Railway extension and £119,446 on Freetown Harbour Works, leaving a balance unexpended of £3,246.

(*d*) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £483,950.

The principal items are :

		£
Cash Balance on 31st December, 1920		41,298
Railway Stores ..	£54,253	
Open Line Cash ..	13,165	
		67,418
P.W.D. Stores Suspense Account ..		35,173
Prisons Suspense Account		5,905
Surplus Funds (invested)		168,961

On 31st December, 1920, the market value of the securities held was £106,678.

Had it been possible to adjust the accounts respecting the payment of carriers serving in East Africa and the awards to Syrians for losses in the anti-Syrian riots, the balance of assets over liabilities would have been substantially reduced.

(*e*) *Public Debt.*

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1920, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £170,547 2s. 2d.

(*f*) *Currency.*

The Imperial and West African silver coins are current and also West African notes of the following values, £5, £1, 10s., 2s. and 1s. The 5-franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland are also current at the pre-war value of 3s. 10½d. each. The importation of these 5-franc pieces was prohibited in 1916, but there are still considerable numbers of these coins in circulation owing to the local trade across the land frontier with French Guinea.

Considerable inconvenience was caused during the first half of the year owing to the shortage of silver coins, especially of the smaller denominations, and the unpopularity of the 1s. and 2s. currency notes. In the local markets these notes were regarded as of less value than the corresponding silver coins. As the currency situation was worse on the Gold Coast attempts were made by various speculators to buy up the silver coins in Sierra Leone for currency notes, export them to the Gold Coast and sell them there for currency notes. At one time as much as 3s. in every £1 could be made in this manner, and the Government prohibited the exportation of silver currency by an Order-in-Council under Ordinance No. 6 of 1916. This action and the importation of considerable quantities of silver and nickel coins relieved the situation.

£109,600 of the new alloy coin was received in 1920, and divided between the two Banks and the Colonial Government. Of this £70,400 was still on hand on the 31st December.

£3,000 of nickel-bronze coin was received, and £958 issued by the end of the year. This coin is being used gradually to replace the old bronze currency

There were notes in circulation at the beginning of the year to the value of £177,670. 123,005 notes were issued during the year—£300,675.

There were withdrawn from circulation notes to the value of £311,280, and in circulation at the end of the year there were notes to the value of £46,237; there being thus excess notes redeemed during the year of £56,914.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African Currency Notes issued in the other Colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the excess redemption.

(g) *Banking*.

There are two banks—The Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each Bank has a Savings Bank branch which forms an important part of their business and which has materially affected the transactions at the Government Savings Bank.

III. TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1920 was £3,548,478, as compared with £2,123,334 in 1919.

The increase was caused partly by increased imports due to the withdrawal of restrictions on trade, partly to the high values of imported goods.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1919 and 1920.

	1913.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,291,982	1,980,382	3,175,835
Government Imports	146,053	54,488	124,673
Specie	312,268	88,474	247,970
Totals	1,750,303	2,123,344	3,548,478

	1913.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	354,488	735,242	844,832
Raw articles and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	103,680	286,186	776,253
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	1,013,442	1,679,419
Miscellaneous	418	—	9
Specie	312,268	88,474	247,970
Totals	£1,750,303	£2,123,344	£3,548,478

Unmanufactured tobacco shows a decrease in imports of 1,218,634 lb., valued at £72,325. Importation, however, was above the average: the quantity imported during 1919 being abnormally large.

Food and Drink showed material increases in imports, including spirits, of which 81,552 gallons, of a value of £60,940, were imported in 1919, as compared with 88,656 gallons, of a value of £72,955, in 1920.

Taken at 100° Tralles the imports for the two years were 44,695 gallons in 1919 and 41,466 in 1920. In 1913 the imports of spirits were 632,087 gallons, of a declared value of £90,729, and 275,464 gallons taken at 100° Tralles.

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was:

	£
1913	173,565
1919	44,354
1920	86,061

and the rate of duty charged steadily increased from 5s. 6d. an imperial gallon at 50 per cent. Tralles on 1st January, 1913, to £1 an imperial gallon of 50 per cent. Tralles on 31st December, 1920.

The value of spirits imported, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :

1913	5·18 per cent.
1914	3·26 per cent.
1915	4·47 per cent.
1916	4·09 per cent.
1917	3·57 per cent.
1918	4·27 per cent.
1919	2·83 per cent.
1920	2·05 per cent.

The export of rice from the United Kingdom was prohibited except under licence, owing to a world-wide shortage of this product. There was in consequence a reduction in commercial imports of rice of £83,024 ; Government, however, imported rice to the value of £46,874.

Cotton goods imported increased in volume and in value from £461,089 in 1919 to £875,462 in 1920, a total increase of £404,364.

Iron manufactures, woollen goods, etc., also increased. There were much heavier imports of bunker coal, accounting for the increase of imports of raw materials. The imports of coal during the two years were as follows :—

1919—31,060 tons valued at £164,171, average price £5·286 per ton, all from the United Kingdom.

1920.	Tons.	Value.	Price Average.
		£	£
United Kingdom	55,798	427,385	7·66
Nigeria	2,965	28,464	9·60
Natal	6,151	57,412	9·334
United States of America ..	7,435	134,673	18·113
Total	72,349	£647,934	£8·955

Exports.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £2,949,380, as compared with £2,101,569 in 1919 and £1,731,252 in 1913.

The following is a comparative table :

	1913.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony	1,376,603	1,806,736	2,247,743
Coal	—	121,308	580,077
Other British and Foreign Produce and Manufacture ..	113,685	119,533	88,353
Specie	240,964	53,992	33,207
Total	£1,731,252	£2,101,569	£2,949,380

The increased prices paid for palm kernels, palm oil and kola nuts account for the increased values of exports of produce of the Colony : there were no increases on the quantities exported.

Coal exports show a great increase, partly due to the cost of fuel, partly to the fact that Admiralty shipments were not included in 1919 return.

The following is a comparative statement of the quantities of the principal exports :

	1919.	1920.
Ginger (tons)	1,069	1,432
Hides (leaves)	10,692	3,677
Kola Nuts (tons)	2,995	2,657
Palm Kernels (tons)	50,622	50,425
Palm Oil	3,315	2,066
Piassava	1,059	657

When scrutinized the trade figures for the year cannot be considered satisfactory, depending as they do on inflated prices for the exports from the Colony and equally excessive values of commercial imports, as the following table will show :

Year.	Commercial Imports.	Exports Produce of Colony.	Increase Exports over Imports.	Increase Imports over Exports.
1913	£1,291,982	£1,376,603	£84,621	—
1919	1,980,382	1,806,736	—	173,646
1920	3,175,835	2,247,743	—	928,092

Correcting the 1919 and 1920 figures by excluding the value of coal from the commercial imports, the increased value of imports over exports is in 1919, £9,475, and in 1920, £280,148.

The kola nut trade is always a fluctuating trade, and prices per measure of 168 lb. ranged from £8 in April to £24 in December, while the yield was not equal to that of the previous year.

With the large demand for kolas in French Guinea and elsewhere cultivation on plantation lines would probably stabilise both the quantities exported and the values. At the same time it is a peculiar trade and the preparation of the nuts for shipment requires the utmost care, every nut has to be carefully cleaned and dried or a whole consignment may be rendered unmarketable.

The following table shows the average values at the port of shipment of palm kernels and palm oil during the last twenty years.

Palm Kernels.

	£			£	
1901	7·89	per ton	1911	15·33	per ton
1902	8·90	,,	1912	15·63	,,
1903	8·63	,,	1913	18·72	,,
1904	8·51	,,	1914	15·52	,,
1905	9·57	,,	1915	12·72	,,
1906	10·88	,,	1916	15·02	,,
1907	12·82	,,	1917	14·52	,,
1908	9·87	,,	1918	16·74	,,
1909	11·25	,,	1919	23·54	,,
1910	14·98	,,	1920	27·79	,,

Palm Oil.

	£			£	
1901	14·87	per ton	1911	26·73	per ton
1902	14·15	,,	1912	23·00	,,
1903	15·09	,,	1913	22·95	,,
1904	16·97	,,	1914	21·99	,,
1905	17·33	,,	1915	23·60	,,
1906	18·32	,,	1916	23·92	,,
1907	21·07	,,	1917	28·72	,,
1908	18·53	,,	1918	32·38	,,
1909	18·77	,,	1919	34·84	,,
1910	24·24	,,	1920	59·63	,,

These tables show that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1901, the values during 1919 and 1920 were altogether abnormal and cannot be expected to recur.

Direction of Trade.

Of the total import trade £2,559,047, or 72·11 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 64·66 per cent. in 1919 and 65·06 per cent. in 1913. £527,962, or 14·88 per cent., was with the United States, as compared with 25·11 in 1919.

Of the export trade £1,569,300, or 53·20 per cent., went to the United Kingdom, £503,653 (17·06 per cent.) to British West African possessions, £240,278 (8·15 per cent.) to Foreign West African possessions, and £45,079 (1·52 per cent.) to the United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade and only 13·29 per cent. of the export trade, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

Shipping.

Four hundred and ninety-six vessels, of a total tonnage of 1,218,846, entered in 1920, as compared with 449 of a tonnage of 1,000,658 in 1919, and 493 vessels of a total tonnage of 1,201,491 cleared, as compared with 450 of a tonnage of 1,010,041 in 1919. Thirty-seven of the vessels entered were sailing ships, of a tonnage of 1,749, the remainder were steamships. Of the vessels entered, 387 of a tonnage of 1,039,698 were British, 109 of a tonnage of 179,148 were foreign.

In 1913, 476 steam vessels, of a tonnage of 1,024,869, were British, and 191 of a tonnage of 406,811 were German, the total being 702 steam vessels of a tonnage of 1,460,197. In 1913, 70·19 per cent. of the vessels entered were British, and 27·06 German. In 1920, 85·3 per cent. of the vessels entered were British.

In addition to the British lines there is a regular service of American vessels from New York, and Dutch vessels from Continental ports.

IV. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, of which the following are the more important :—

No. 2 *of* 1920.—" The Deportation of Aliens." This provided for the deportation from the Colony, or Protectorate, of persons not of British nationality.

No. 4 *of* 1920.—" The Protectorate Amendment Ordinance," which divided the Protectorate into three Provinces, and provided for the appointment of Provincial Commissioners.

No. 10 *of* 1920.—" The Repatriation of Convicted Natives Ordinance." This Ordinance aimed at the repatriation from the Colony of natives of the Protectorate convicted of offences in the Colony.

No. 16 *of* 1920.—" The Spirituous Liquors Ordinance," passed to give effect to the Convention of St. Germain en Laye, relating to the Liquor Traffic in Africa, and to prohibit the importation of Trade Spirits.

V. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

(*a*) *Agriculture.*

In the Agricultural Department, the sub-stations at Bumpeh and Waterloo were found to be unsuitable and were closed down. The Batkanu experimental station was continued, but there is nothing of importance to record.

Farmers and others on the Bullom shore were encouraged to plant cocoanuts, and 10,000 nuts were got from Waterloo and distributed.

With a view of checking the parasitic disease that infects the native ground-nuts, ground-nuts were imported from French Guinea and sold to farmers in Bullom and elsewhere, but it is too early yet to know the results.

Experimental work was continued at N'Jala, but the results were rather disappointing, the crops being attacked by white ants and fungous disease.

Cocoa is still being grown, but with the exception of certain areas in the south of the Southern Province, where the plant will grow well, there is not sufficient depth of soil in other parts for successful cultivation.

While it is possible to devise a scientific rotation of crops which will enable land to be kept under continuous cultivation, no economic rotation has yet been discovered—that is a rotation of crops each of which will be of value to the farmer.

Taking the Protectorate as a whole, the food crops were good, and there were adequate supplies of the staple crops: rice, cassava, millet and maize.

(*b*) *Forestry.*

The Peninsula Reserves were looked after during the year.

In the Protectorate the exportation of gum copal was again prohibited, to prevent over-tapping of trees in Kessowa Reserve. The native method of tapping gum copal trees has been found to be the only practicable one. In the gum copal reserve natural regeneration is good, and when looked after the trees grow at the expense of the grass.

The Nimini Hills and other reservations have been demarcated, but the Reserve Settlement Court has not yet been held. These reservations are climatic and not commercial, as they are too far from the Railway for timber to be profitably extracted.

The restricted areas for mangroves on the Bumpe and Ribbi rivers, and for gum copal in the Yonni country, have been maintained.

(*c*) *Native Industries.*

These are few and only sufficient to meet local requirements; the most important being the fishing industry. Large quantities of imperfectly dried and cured fish are made on the coast and sent into the interior for sale.

Properly organised a fishing industry could be made a profitable undertaking.

VI. EDUCATION.

In both the Colony and Protectorate education is largely in the hands of the Missions.

(A) COLONY.

The Government Institutions are the following:—

The Model School, providing both primary and secondary education and training classes for teachers. There are 224 boys and 70 girls attending the primary classes; 115 boys attending the secondary classes and 16 boys attending the training classes.

The Madrasas or Mohammedan Schools are five in number and provide elementary education for 381 boys and 213 girls.

The standard of the Model School is good, but the class rooms are congested and additional accommodation is required.

The following schedules give details of the primary schools in the Colony, divided into two groups—aided and non-aided.

(*a*) *Aided.*

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Number on Rolls.	
		Boys.	Girls.
1. Anglican	42	1,558	1,327
2. Wesleyan Methodist ..	29	1,136	847
3. Roman Catholic	9	477	288
4. United Methodist	10	323	273
5. Countess of Huntingdon ..	4	110	83
6. African Methodist Episcopal	4	121	88
7. United Brethren in Christ ..	1	89	38
	97	3,814	2,944

These schools earned £3,649 in Government Grants in 1920.

(b) *Non-Aided Primary Schools in Colony.*

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Number on Rolls.	
		Boys.	Girls.
1. Anglican	5	238	143
2. Wesleyan Methodist..	4	60	41
3. Roman Catholic	2	68	35
4. United Methodist	4	45	33
5. Countess of Huntingdon	6	117	52
6. Seventh Day Adventist	2	89	24
7. United Brethren in Christ	1	6	3
	24	623	331

Secondary Schools.

There are eleven secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Model School. Of these three are assisted schools. Three schools have submitted no details.

The total number on the rolls of the schools submitting details are 1,137 and the average attendance 882. The three assisted secondary schools received £279 in Capitation Grants.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham) the Grammar School and the Albert Academy for boys and the Annie Walsh School for girls.

Examinations are held for all schools for the Elementary and Intermediate Examinations: all candidates for the Civil Service Entrance Examinations must have passed the latter examination.

	Candidates.	Passes.
Elementary Certificate Examination	376	159
Intermediate Certificate Examination	132	66

Examinations are also held for the Cambridge Junior and Senior Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year:

	Entered	Passed
Cambridge Junior ..	24 ..	10
Cambridge Senior ..	11 ..	1

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated to Durham University, holds examinations for the B.A. Degree, and twelve students received the degree in 1920.

Trades Schools.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School was opened during the year, partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government Grant. Six boys were admitted and are being trained.

(B) PROTECTORATE.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are:

(1) The Bo School for the Sons and Nominees of Chiefs.
(2) The Agricultural College, N'Jala.
(3) Bumpe School.
(4) Baima School.
(5) Gbangbama School.
(6) Gambia.

The last three are Anglo-vernacular schools.

The Bo School has 160 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

N'Jala Agricultural College is a boarding school for the training of vernacular school teachers and has 60 boys on the roll. It is intended to produce teachers with a practical knowledge of agriculture. At present the school is restricted to Mendi pupils.

The Bumpe School had an average attendance of 40 boys: the Baima School 20: shortage of the European Staff of the Bo School prevented adequate supervision being given to these and to the Gbangbama and Kambia Anglo-vernacular schools.

So far nothing has been done by Government for the education of girls in the Protectorate.

VII. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) *Savings Bank.*

There is a Savings Bank in connection with the Post Office, but its business has declined in recent years, largely owing to the growth of the Savings Bank business branches of the two Banks.

(*b*) *Hospitals and Asylums.*

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire early in February and all the records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new Hospital, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

710 patients were admitted to hospital and there were 53 deaths, seven following operation. 62 operations were performed. There were 16 patients in hospital at the end of the year.

8,152 out-patients were treated at the Colonial Hospital, 3,000 at the Cline Town Dispensary and 1,466 at the Kissy Dispensary.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, there were 137 inmates on 31st December, 1919, 49 were admitted during the year, 30 were discharged and 44 died, leaving 112 inmates on 31st December, 1920.

The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

The following are the statistics of the Incurable Hospitals :

	Female.	Male.	Total.
Under treatment on Dec. 31, 1919 ..	43	82	125
Admitted during year	105	254	359
Discharged	72	168	240
Died	34	110	144
In Hospital Dec. 31, 1920	42	58	100

At the Leper Asylum there were four patients at the beginning of the year, one was admitted and four died.

Seven cases of small-pox were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, of which three died, and 13 cases of chicken-pox, of which three died.

Nursing Home.

There were 209 admissions, 78 being Government Officials, 109 were cases of malaria and 5 cases of blackwater fever. Two officials and three non-officials died.

VIII. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, Police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1920 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, eleven European Inspectors and 291 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, as compared with two Officers and 282 Non-Commissioned Officers and men in 1919.

The anti-Syrian riots in 1919 had shown that a higher standard of training and discipline was required in the Police, and the European Inspectors were brought out to secure this.

The health of the Force was fairly good.

The additional European Staff enabled a higher standard of discipline to be attained. 33 Non-Commissioned Officers and 402 men were punished for breach of discipline during the year.

The following table shows the cases reported and arrests made in 1919 and 1920 :

Year.	Cases reported.	Arrests made.	Convictions.	Percentage convictions to arrests.
1919	1,998	2,615	2,104	80%
1920	2,078	2,480	1,959	79%

The following is a comparative statement of the serious crimes reported during the two years :

	1919	1920
Murder	2	2
House-breaking	19	11
Burglary	14	6
Shop-breaking	12	22
Rape	1	0
Larceny	922	866
Receiving	85	129

Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the Town Council. The most serious fire occurred in February, when the Colonial Hospital was destroyed.

Prisons.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1919 and 1920 :

	1919	1920
Males	1,317	1,324
Females	26	22
Juveniles	30	34

The average prison population in 1919 was 343 males and 5 females, and in 1920 431 males and 4 females. 164 persons were convicted in the Higher Court. There was one execution.

Under the Repatriation of Convicted Prisoners Ordinance (No. 10 of 1920) 123 convicted prisoners were ordered to be repatriated to the Protectorate on completing their sentences and 12 were convicted for returning to the Colony without permission. There were 263 admissions to hospital during the year and seven deaths.

The general health of the prisoners was good and the sanitary condition of the gaol satisfactory.

In the Protectorate prisons 1,068 persons were committed to prison in 1920, as compared with 1,503 in 1919, the daily average for the year being 207.

Criminal Statistics.

In the Supreme Court of the Colony 100 persons were convicted, 57 of whom were for larceny and 28 for other offences against property, as compared with 181 in 1919, of which 123 are for offences against property. The anti-Syrian riots in 1919 accounted in part for the large number of cases that year.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate 66 persons were convicted, of which 20 were for larceny and 8 for other offences against property, as compared with 74 in 1919, of which 43 were offences against property.

In the Police Magistrates' Court, Freetown, 2,214 persons were convicted summarily, 906 being for larceny and 1,078 for offences against revenue laws and kindred laws, as compared with 2,941 convictions in 1919, 857 for larceny and 1,547 for offences against revenue laws.

In the District Commissioner's Court at Waterloo there were 195 convictions, 123 being for larceny, and in the District Commissioner's Court, Bonthe, there were 279 convictions.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners of the Protectorate 620 persons were convicted.

IX. VITAL STATISTICS, &c.

European Population.

The number of European (including American) residents in 1920 was :

Officials	233	
Non-Officials	300	(estimated)
Military	495	
	1,028	

The average number of official residents was 133, as compared with 102 in 1919, and 10 were invalided during the year. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans from climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate since 1911 :

Years.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Total.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic	Non-Climatic	Clim.	Non-Clim.	
1911 ..	2	5	2	1	0	1	11
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ..	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ..	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ..	—	2	5	3	—	—	10

* Influenza Epidemic.

Hill Station.

The total number of residents at Hill Station during the year was 49, as compared with 57 in 1919 ; of these 27 were officials, one missionary, seven military and 15 non-officials, including wives of civil and military officials. On the whole the health of the residents was good.

Population of the Colony

(as distinguished from the Protectorate).

The population of the Colony was returned at the census of 1911 as 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The number of births registered in 1920 was 1,501, or 20 per 1,000, and of deaths 2,058, or 27 per 1,000. According to the census of 1911 the population of Freetown was 34,090 ; 716 births and 1,035 deaths were registered, or 21 per 1,000 and 30 per 1,000 respectively.

The excess of deaths over births both in Freetown and in the Colony generally cannot be depended on as being accurate. Registration of births and deaths is nominally compulsory in Freetown and the Colony, but while the registration of deaths is probably correct, as bodies have to be buried, the registration of births is not accurate. There is a large population of Protectorate natives living in Freetown and the Colony, many of whom will not trouble to register the births of children.

Fifty still-births were registered in Freetown. These are not included in the above totals.

Protectorate Population.

The estimated population of the Protectorate is 1,327,560. This is based on the 1911 census. Another census will be taken in 1921.

Vaccination.

Twenty-six thousand six hundred and seventy-two vaccinations were performed in 1920, as compared with 47,702 in 1919; of these 9,819 were successful, 5,430 unsuccessful, and 11,423 were not seen afterwards.

Sanitation.

The Colony and Protectorate were free from epidemic disease during the year and the port of Freetown was never in quarantine. Quarantine was declared against various West African ports owing to small-pox, but no outbreaks of yellow fever or plague were reported.

The number of mosquito larvae prosecutions in the Freetown Police Court was 438, as against 563 in 1919. The closing of wells commenced systematically in 1918 was continued, and the total number closed during the year was 176, leaving about 55 still open. It is hoped that this measure will bring about a great diminution in the incidence of water-borne disease, besides getting rid of a serious breeding-ground for mosquitoes, both Anopheline and Culicine.

About 2,000 yards of concrete surface drainage were put in, mainly in the Western area of Freetown, and in conjunction with this some 16 acres of low-lying compounds were raised and drained. In this way one of the most malarious quarters of the town has been greatly improved.

Seven thousand five hundred and forty rats were paid for by the Sanitary Department at the rate of 3d. per head.

Successful experiments were made with varnish as a means of catching rats, and poisons such as squill and barium carbonate were also tried.

Two Venturi meters were installed in connection with the waterworks. It is now possible to record both hourly and total daily supply, and to locate and control excessive consumption. The average daily consumption of water in Freetown is 392,000 gallons, or about 11·5 gallons per head.

Climate.

The year 1920 was characterized by an extremely low rainfall, the total for the year, 106·85 inches, being the lowest on record with the exception of 1914 and 1918, when the rainfall was 102·34 and 103·43; with the exception of two or three slight showers towards the end of April there was no rain during the first four months of the year. July, with a rainfall of over 40 inches, was wetter than usual. In August there was a distinct break in the rains, not uncommon in other parts of West Africa but unusual in Sierra Leone.

The tornadoes appeared to be slighter than usual.

The following are the monthly records of temperature and rainfall for 1920 at the Tower Hill Observatory, which is 180 feet above sea level :

Month.	Mean Air Temperature in Shade.		Total Rainfall in inches.
	Maximum	Minimum	
	°F.	°F.	
January	89	74	—
February	91	94	—
March	89	74	—
April	89	74	0·31
May	89	74	5·67
June	85	73	13·91
July	82	72	40·03
August	82	71	11·52
September	85	72	25·33
October	87	71	7·69
November	88	72	2·25
December	90	73	0·14
			106·85

Lowest temperature recorded, 65° on 22nd May; highest, 99° on 24th February and 7th March.

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONE.

The business dealt with by the Department during the year, as compared with 1919, is as follows. The figures for 1913 are also shown as the last pre-war year of normal business:

	1913.	1919.	1920.
Money Orders (numbers) ..	12,272	7,587	6,653
,, ,, (value)	£150,068	£103,842	£91,464
Postal Orders Issued	60,704	44,483	39,733
,, ,, ,, (value) ..	£37,790	£31,443	£29,641
,, ,, Paid	43,995	37,966	30,239
,, ,, ,, (value) ..	£29,667	£27,784	£24,184
Postcards, Letters, Newspapers, received and despatched ..	1,590,693	1,564,413	1,631,697
Parcels, received and despatched	50,700	50,700	52,664

Both money order and postal order business show a material reduction, part of which is due to the transmission of currency notes by post.

The revenue and expenditure for the same period are as follows :

	1913.	1919.	1920.
Revenue	£14,487	£10,503	£11,994
Expenditure	£12,124	£11,885	£16,582
Customs duties collected through Post Office	£2,588	£6,772	£10,370
Stamps sold for Inland Revenue purposes (value)	£2,491	£3,876	£3,789
Number of Post Offices open ..	53	43	44

The 1913 revenue was to a certain extent abnormal owing to large sales of Georgian stamps to collectors, the revenue for 1912 being £9,547, and in 1914 £9,782.

The increase in expenditure is due to the increase in salaries and to an increase in the amount paid to the railway for the carriage of inland mails.

Postal rates on letters and parcels were increased in September on inland postage as well as on letters and parcels to the United Kingdom.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

The Telegraphs and Telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles from Freetown). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano on the railway there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengema to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a boat service, and from Sengema there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles).

From Songo Town (on the railway) there is a telephone to Port Lokko and Mabanta. This was constructed by, and is under the control of, the Imperial Military Authorities.

Apart from railway messages the following messages were transmitted :

	1919.		1920.
Public Telegrams ..	78,032	..	56,950
Government Telegrams	9,811	..	11,807

The revenue from telegrams was £5,577, as compared with £4,165 in 1919.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and sent through the office in Freetown of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown with 75 subscribers, of which 23 are Government offices and quarters, 20 are railway offices, and 32 private subscribers.

The telephone revenue in 1920 amounted to £962 and the maintenance cost £620.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) *Railways.*

The total length of line open was 338 miles:

227½	Main Line. Water Street to Pendembu.
104	Branch Line Boia to Kamabai.
5½	Hill Station Line.
1	Branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.
338	

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1920, was £1,634,085.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1919 and 1920:

	1913.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£
Gross Revenue	168,418	175,441	199,139
Expenditure	90,155	204,517	232,375*

* Exclusive of £20,427 extraordinary expenditure.

The War Bonus on salaries in 1919, and the increased salaries and wages paid, with the high price of coal and other materials, accounted for the great increase in working costs.

	1913.	1919.	1920.
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ..	114·11	100·39	105·86
Working expenses per train-mile ..	61·09	97·96*	123·53
Passengers carried	438,388	616,793	507,272

* Inclusive of War Bonus.

The rates for passengers were increased during the year, and while the number of passengers decreased, there was a slight increase in revenue.

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 44 engines, 97 coaching vehicles, and 386 goods vehicles, including 39 service vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 57,294 tons, as compared with 52,759 in 1919 and 62,084 in 1913.

(*b*) *Roads.*

The extension of the road system in the Colony and the Protectorate was carried on through the year and additional mileage opened for motor traffic. In the Protectorate the majority of the bridges erected were timber bridges, but they will be replaced in time by permanent bridges.

The number of motor cars and motor lorries has increased, but outside Freetown only light vehicles can at present be used.

(*c*) *Waterways.*

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light-draught vessels. Large quantities of produce are brought both to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways, and a launch service would probably develop the trade in the areas served by the waterways to a greater extent.

XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

Apart from road construction the only public work of importance during the year was the erection of two blocks of wards for the new Colonial Hospital. These had been begun in 1914 and work discontinued on account of the war. They were not completed by the end of the year.

In the Public Works Department a considerable amount of work was done in making furniture for the new wards and also for the bungalows in Freetown and the Protectorate.

Experiments in brick-making were carried on during the year in the Protectorate, but while there are considerable supplies of clay, the proper mixture has not yet been got to enable really satisfactory bricks to be made.

XIII. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Geological Survey of the Colony and Protectorate was carried on during the year. The results were of scientific interest, but with the exception of small deposits of iron ore and scattered deposits of clay no discoveries of economic value have been made. The reports for the years 1918-1919 and 1919-1920 have been published.

XIV. IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS AND ENQUIRIES.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government officers were furnished to the Government of Sierra Leone during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts and manufacturers. In addition, information relating to a number of Sierra Leone products was supplied to enquirers.

Sisal Hemp.—This sample of sisal hemp was well grown and of exceptional length and compared favourably in quality with good commercial grades from East Africa. It was fairly well cleaned but was of uneven colour, and its value could be enhanced by the exercise of greater care in preparation. Consignments of similar material would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom, and enquiries were therefore made by the Imperial Institute as to the prospects of sisal hemp being produced in commercial quantities in Sierra Leone. The sample was, however, prepared from plants grown on a small plot at a Government Experimental Farm, and commercial supplies are not available at present.

Fibrous material from the Oil Palm.—A sample of fibrous material, consisting of the ribs of the leaflets of the oil palm, was forwarded for examination as a brush-making material. Brush-makers who were consulted by the Imperial Institute did not consider the fibre very suitable for the manufacture of brushes in comparison with piassava, as it is less elastic and durable and would give a large amount of waste in working. It seemed doubtful whether there would be a profitable market for the material in the United Kingdom, but two firms expressed their willingness to carry out practical trials in order to test the point. A further consignment was therefore requested from the Colony, together with information as to the price at which the fibre could be supplied on a commercial scale.

Cotton.—The Imperial Institute was asked by a company in Freetown to report on a sample of cotton grown experimentally, and to advise as to the desirability of cultivating it on a commercial scale. The sample was not of satisfactory character, and appeared to consist of a mixture of two or more varieties of the native cottons of Sierra Leone. It was suggested that better results might be obtained by planting an American variety already acclimatised to West Africa.

Native Fibres.—Information was supplied to an enquirer in Sierra Leone as to the possibility of certain native fibres finding a market in this country in competition with other rope-making materials, and reports were furnished on samples which he forwarded.

Antelope Skins.—In connection with a previous enquiry as to the possibility of exporting raw antelope skins from Sierra Leone, the Imperial Institute suggested that samples should be forwarded in order that their suitability for sale in the United Kingdom and their commercial value might be determined. On arrival of the samples, however, the demand for such skins in London was practically at a standstill owing to market conditions, and it was not possible to obtain any definite information as to their value. It was accordingly suggested that information regarding the quantities of skins available in the Colony, and the local prices, should be furnished in order that further action may be taken when conditions become more favourable for placing antelope skins on the United Kingdom market.

Citrate of Lime.—In connection with the proposed establishment by the Sierra Leone Government of an estate for the cultivation of limes on a commercial scale, and the erection of a factory to prepare lime products, full information was furnished to the Department of Agriculture as to the cost of establishing and maintaining a lime plantation ; the usual yields of the various products and the current prices ; the cost of plant for the manufacture of citrate of lime and concentrated lime-juice. Information was also supplied as to the relative advantages of making citrate of lime or concentrated lime-juice, and as to the results of the working of factories in other British Colonies.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following articles relating to subjects of special interest to Sierra Leone were published in the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute for 1920 :—

" The Cultivation and Preparation of Cocoa."

" The Cultivation of the African Oil Palm."

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

The Public Exhibition Galleries, including the portion occupied by the Sierra Leone Court, were redecorated throughout during the year, after being in the occupation of H.M. Government for war purposes. The Sierra Leone show-cases and exhibits have been reinstalled.

J. C. MAXWELL,
Colonial Secretary.

20th August, 1921.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
1055	Malta	1919–1920
1056	Swaziland	,,
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	,,
1061	Seychelles	,,
1062	Mauritius	,,
1063	St. Vincent	April–December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	,,
1066	Gold Coast	,,
1067	Jamaica	1919–1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1070	British Honduras	,,
1071	Hong Kong	,,
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	,,
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	1919–1920
1079	Uganda	,,
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1150.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1090.)

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1921.

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Sierra Leone, consisting of the Colony and Protectorate, is about the size of Ireland (30,000 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of west longitude. The greatest depth from north to south is rather over 200 miles, and from west to east about 180 miles.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Bonthe Island and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, as it is a port of call for ocean-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds. These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the

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land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 330 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163.

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account during the Great War Freetown Harbour was of great importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets, thanks to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who formed the nucleus of a well-planned town. During the past ten years a number of fine buildings and offices have been erected, and during the past four years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time over a hundred motor vehicles ply in Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there is a large reservation of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is 44,142 (1921 Census).

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for ocean-going steamers, and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. Speaking generally, the Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are at least eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, which forms part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel to Turner's Peninsula (formerly part of the Colony), is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards Sherbro Island even in the dry season, and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain parts on the Sewa and Wunje rivers.

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The nature of the country also varies considerably. Roughly speaking, a line drawn due east from Freetown indicates approximately the point at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south merges with the more open thinly-wooded, grassy country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of nearly 50 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is considerably denser in the southern or forest regrowth belt (locally known as " bush " country).

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is now divided into three provinces under Provincial Commissioners; each province is subdivided into four districts under District Commissioners.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, is 1,456,148, and is composed of the following tribes :—

Northern Province . .	Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos, Limbas, Lokkos, and Timnes, with some Mandingoes and Fullahs.
Central Province . .	Konnohs, Kissis and Mendes.
Southern Province . .	Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Mendes.

The Mendes are far more numerous than the other tribes. The largest towns in the Protectorate have a population of about 2,000, but these are comparatively few in number; the bulk of the population resides in villages ranging in size from 30 to 100 houses.

HISTORICAL.

In one respect the history of Sierra Leone differs from that of other British West African colonies; from the commencement Sierra Leone was really a colony and not merely a trading station. Her colonists were certain Africans who became stranded in London after the close of the American War in 1782, in which they had taken part, and certain Europeans presumably seeking adventure. In 1787 a party of these colonists, under Captain Thompson of the Royal Navy, to whom had been entrusted the task of forming a settlement, landed at Sierra Leone and succeeded in obtaining from the local chief (King Tom) a grant of land of about 20 square miles on the site which is at present occupied by Freetown. This grant was subsequently confirmed in 1788 by the paramount chief (Nembanna, which, strictly speaking, means Regent Chief), who ceded the land for ever on receiving payment.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from native chiefs. In 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate ; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy, then engaged in suppressing the overseas slave traffic.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Timnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 King Farina and King Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies. In 1808 the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed. From this date the condition of the Colony commenced to improve. It is interesting to note that from 1814 to 1888, a period of 74 years, 18 Governors or Acting Governors (with the exception of one who was killed) died in Sierra Leone or on their way home from the Colony, out of a total of 60 different officers who administered the government during that period.

About 1820 the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and a number of treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullon—were ceded to the Crown ; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. About 1852 the Government of the Colony began to make its weight felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. The same year the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony. In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the Northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the Eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate, which commenced in the Karene District by the refusal of a Timne chief (Bai Bureh) to pay the House Tax, which was being imposed for the first time. In April the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved.

Early in the following year the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful. Progress has, perhaps, been slower than in other West African Colonies, but it has been steady.

I. GENERAL.

The most important economic feature of the year 1921 was the very serious fall in the prices of the staple exports of the Colony. Following upon several years of great, if to some extent fictitious, prosperity the slump in the palm oil and palm kernel markets, which began first to make itself felt in December, 1920, has had very serious and far-reaching effects on the financial position of the Colony and Protectorate. The figures shown under Head II, Financial, *infra*, are a sufficient index of the extent to which commercial and industrial depression in Europe has reacted on the prosperity of Sierra Leone. As soon as the position was realised the most rigorous measures were taken to cut down the Colony's expenditure to an amount that should if possible come within the limits of the reduced revenue for the year. This attempt was made by stopping all works that were not of urgent necessity by reorganisation of work, and by retrenchment of personnel both European and African. A very considerable saving was thus made, and although expenditure was still markedly in excess of revenue, the total figures for expenditure do not give a true idea of the amount of retrenchment effected owing to the presence of very large items of disbursement, most of which were at once unforeseen, unprecedented, and unavoidable. Reference is made to these items under Head II, Financial. There was at the end of the year no sign of any immediate improvement in the trade prospects of the Colony.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. R. J. Wilkinson, C.M.G., left the Colony on leave of absence prior to retirement from the service on the 8th September. From the 9th September until the end of the year the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Dr. J. C. Maxwell, C.M.G.

II. FINANCIAL.

(*a*) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £638,315, as compared with £999,382 in 1920, and was less than the original Estimate by £391,920.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1920, and 1921.

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Customs	317,643	630,052	338,962
Light Dues	6,938	8,029	7,316
Licences	79,745	74,762	72,874
Fees of Court	17,853	29,336	23,213
Post Office	14,487	11,994	13,739
Rents	417	473	655
Interest..	12,324	18,942	13,454
Miscellaneous	1,821	13,817	6,170
Railway	167,304	201,092	161,928
Land Sales	—	11	4
Reimbursement by Freetown Water Authority	—	—	—
Total	£618,383	£999,382	£638,315

1913 was the last complete year of peace working and a large revenue was derived from duties on trade spirits.

With the exception of that of the Post Office and that accruing from rents on Government property, which are increased owing respectively to increased postal rates and increase in land rented and collection of outstanding arrears of rent, every item of revenue suffered a serious decrease owing to the depression in trade, the largest decrease being one of £291,090 in the Customs revenue. A sum of £10,874 due from the Freetown Water Authority was not collected, the amount being carried forward as a loan.

(*b*) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £982,032, as compared with £843,403 in 1920, and was less than the original Estimate by £88,078.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1920, and 1921 :—

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	61,574	83,088	82,310
Pensions	8,228	21,497	24,945
Governor and Legislature ..	6,443	6,117	5,798
Colonial Secretary's Department..	8,190	14,118	15,436
Provincial Administration ..	33,877	49,714	58,300
Treasury	4,813	7,908	7,197
Customs Department	14,683	19,799	19,397
Audit	3,051	4,128	4,338
Port and Marine Department ..	3,289	2,284	3,166
Legal Departments	11,670	16,237	14,807
Civil Police..	10,082	20,856	22,846

EXPENDITURE.—*contd.*

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Prisons	8,633	26,722	22,437
Medical Department	30,048	46,829	47,791
Sanitary ,, ...	8,951	17,688	19,239
Education ,, ...	13,296	20,968	26,298
Post Office	12,124	16,582	16,820
West African Frontier Force ..	40,638	40,645	48,974
Railway Department	146,060	254,303	302,729
Agricultural ,, ...	2,842	6,332	7,501
Forest ,, ...	3,584	8,097	7,577
Miscellaneous Services	23,914	27,447	50,284
Protectorate Roads Department (now under P.W.D.)	7,558	25,693	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads) ..	13,622	18,500	29,008
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads) ..	18,897	39,102	40,494
Public Works Extraordinary ..	58,856	22,417	42,510
Survey of Colony and Protectorate	228	—	—
Railway Construction	48,999	—	—
Freetown Water Works	6,657	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special)	11,633	—	—
War Services (Special)	—	26,354	930
Depreciation of Investments ..	—	—	60,000
Total	£622,439	£843,403	£982,032

Many heads of expenditure showed increases owing to such factors as increased salaries, increased capitation grants, increased pensions and gratuities. The several items of unforeseen expenditure referred to under I—General—*supra*, were (*a*) an expenditure of £60,000 on account of depreciation of investments, (*b*) necessary expenditure on the new Colonial Hospital (to replace the Hospital destroyed by fire in 1920), incurring an increase in the Public Works Extraordinary expenditure of £20,093, (*c*) an increase in Railway expenditure of £48,426 caused by payment for locomotives ordered in 1920, (*d*) an increase under miscellaneous expenditure of £22,837 caused by (i) payment of interest on advances made for the payment of carriers from East Africa and (ii) loss on the sale of rice incurred in 1920 and brought to account in 1921. The Protectorate Roads Department was incorporated under the Public Works Department. Taking the two Departments as one, a considerable decrease, amounting to £15,184, is shown. A decrease of £25,424 is shown under War Services (Special), due to the cessation of payment of war bonuses, etc. The only other considerable decrease is shown under Prisons, viz., £4,285.

(*c*) LOAN EXPENDITURE.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 amounted to £942,827. Of this £494,565 was spent on the redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,615 on Railway extension and £113,977 on Freetown Harbour Works, leaving a balance unexpended of £8,670.

(*d*) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £140,233.

The principal items are :

		£
Cash Balance on 31st December, 1921		27,511
Railway Stores ..	£59,135	
Open Line Cash ..	5,361	
		64,496
P.W.D. Stores Suspense Account ..		30,324
Prisons Suspense Account		4,465
Surplus Funds (invested)		69,889

On 31st December, 1921, the market value of the securities held was £46,325.

Had it been possible to adjust the accounts respecting the payment of carriers serving in East Africa and the awards to Syrians for losses in the anti-Syrian riots, the balance of assets over liabilities would have been substantially reduced.

(*e*) PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1921, was £1,729,848,and the sinking fund amounted to £195,913 10s. 4d.

(*f*) CURRENCY.

The Imperial and West African silver coins are current and also West African notes of the following values, £5, £1, 10s., 2s. and 1s. The 5-franc pieces of France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland were, at the beginning of the year, also current at the pre-war value of 3s. 10½d. each. The importation of these 5-franc pieces was prohibited, but there are still considerable numbers of these coins in circulation owing to the local trade across the land frontier with French Guinea. They were demonetised before the end of the year.

The stock of the new alloy coin at the beginning of the year was £70,400 ; and it was divided between the two banks and the Colonial Government. £192,300 was received during the year, and £93,800 was still on hand on the 31st December. This class of coin is now in general circulation and is well received.

£144 of nickel-bronze coin was received, and £10 issued by the end of the year.

There were notes in circulation at the beginning of the year to the value of £225,760. Notes were issued during the year to the value of £21,750.

There were withdrawn from circulation notes to the value of £243,982, and in circulation at the end of the year there were notes to the value of £82,500. Notes to the value of £365,492 were destroyed during the year. The excess of redemptions over issues of notes is £232,909. The withdrawal from circulation of notes of the denomination of 2*s*. and 1*s*. was continued, and very few now remain in circulation.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African Currency Notes issued in the other Colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the excess redemption.

(*g*) BANKING.

There are two banks—The Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each Bank has a Savings Bank branch which forms an important part of their business and which has materially affected the transactions at the Government Savings Bank.

III. TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1921 was £1,769,628, as compared with £3,548,478 in 1920.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1920 and 1921.

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,291,982	3,175,835	1,335,885
Government Imports	146,053	124,673	241,005
Specie	312,268	247,970	192,738
Totals	£1,750,303	£3,548,478	£1,769,628

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	354,488	844,832	383,521
Raw articles and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	103,680	776,253	279,156
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	1,679,419	914,103
Miscellaneous	418	9	110
Specie	312,268	247,970	192,738
Totals	£1,750,303	£3,548,748	£1,769,628

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1920	86,061
1921	41,520

and the rate of duty charged increased steadily from 5s. 6d. an imperial gallon at 50 per cent. Tralles on 1st January, 1913, to 25s. an imperial gallon of 50 per cent. Tralles on 31st December, 1921.

The value of spirits imported, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :

1913	5·18 per cent.
1914	3·26 per cent.
1915	4·47 per cent.
1916	4·09 per cent.
1917	3·57 per cent.
1918	4·27 per cent.
1919	2·83 per cent.
1920	2·05 per cent.
1921	2·18 per cent.

Cotton goods imported decreased in volume and in value from £875,462 in 1920 to £358,577 in 1921, a total decrease of £516,885.

The commercial imports of coal during the two years were as follows :—

1920—72,349 tons valued at £647,934, average price 8·955 per ton.

1921.	Tons.	Value.	Price Average.
		£	£
United Kingdom	24,101	145,051	6·01
United States of America ..	1,302	8,165	6·271
Total	25,403	£153,216	£6·032

Imports of coal for the use of the Government were from the United Kingdom 2,731 tons at a cost of £25,343, from Nigeria 5,865 tons at a cost of £27,148.

EXPORTS.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £1,625,128, as compared with £1,731,252 in 1913.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony	1,376,603	2,247,743	1,042,081
Coal	—	580,077	145,199
Other British and Foreign Produce Manufacture ..	113,685	88,353	124,868
Specie	240,964	33,207	312,980
Total	£1,731,352	£2,949,380	£1,625,128

The following is a comparative statement of the quantities of the principal exports :—

	1920.	1921.
Ginger (tons)	1,432	560
Hides (leaves)	3,677	3,040
Kola Nuts (tons)	2,657	2,541
Palm Kernels (tons)	50,425	40,409
Palm Oil	2,066	119
Piassava	657	742
Rice (bushels)	—	1,540

The trade figures for the year must be considered unsatisfactory, as the following table will show :—

Year.	Commercial Imports.	Exports Produce of Colony.	Excess of Exports over Imports.	Excess of Imports over Exports.
1913	£1,291,982	£1,376,603	£84,621	—
1919	1,980,382	1,806,736	—	£173,646
1920	3,175,835	2,747,743	—	928,092
1921	1,335,885	1,042,081	—	293,804

The kola nut trade is always a fluctuating trade, and prices per measure of 168 lb. ranged from £6 in April to £6 10*s*. in December.

With the large demand for kolas in French Guinea and elsewhere cultivation on plantation lines would probably stabilise both the quantities exported and the values. At the same time it is a peculiar trade and the preparation of the nuts for shipment requires the utmost care; every nut has to be carefully cleaned and dried or a whole consignment may be rendered unmarketable.

The following table shows the average values at the port of shipment of palm kernels and palm oil during the last twenty years:—

Palm Kernels.

	£		£
1901	7·89 per ton	1912	15·63 per ton
1902	8·90 ,,	1913	18·72 ,,
1903	8·63 ,,	1914	15·52 ,,
1904	8·51 ,,	1915	12·72 ,,
1905	9·57 ,,	1916	15·02 ,,
1906	10·88 ,,	1917	14·52 ,,
1907	12·82 ,,	1918	16·74 ,,
1908	9·87 ,,	1919	23·54 ,,
1909	11·25 ,,	1920	27·79 ,,
1910	14·98 ,,	1921	16·95 ,,
1911	15·33 ,,		

Palm Oil.

	£		£
1901	14·87 per ton	1912	23·00 per ton
1902	14·15 ,,	1913	22·95 ,,
1903	15·09 ,,	1914	21·99 ,,
1904	16·97 ,,	1915	23·60 ,,
1905	17·33 ,,	1916	23·92 ,,
1906	18·32 ,,	1917	28·72 ,,
1907	21·07 ,,	1918	32·38 ,,
1908	18·53 ,,	1919	34·84 ,,
1909	18·77 ,,	1920	59·63 ,,
1910	24·24 ,,	1921	40·35 ,,
1911	26·73 ,,		

These tables show that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1901, the values during 1919 and 1920 were altogether abnormal.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade £1,225,513, or 69·24 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 72·11 per cent. in 1920 and 65·06 in 1913; £202,101, or 11·45 per cent., was with the United States, as compared with 14·88 in 1920; Foreign West African Possessions £156,349, or 8·83 per cent.

Of the export trade £1,053,836, or 64·80 per cent., went to the United Kingdom, £217,226 (13·36 per cent.) to British West African Possessions, £136,477 (8·39 per cent.) to Foreign West African Possessions, and £205,139 (12·707 per cent.) to the

United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade, and only 13·29 per cent. of the export, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

SHIPPING.

Four hundred and sixty-six vessels, of a total tonnage of 1,057,758, entered in 1921, as compared with 496 of a tonnage of 1,218,846 in 1920, and 441 vessels of a total tonnage of 1,053,822 cleared, as compared with 493 of a tonnage of 1,201,491 in 1920. Forty of the vessels entered were sailing ships, of a tonnage of 2,376, the remainder were steamships. Of the vessels entered, 316 (viz., 67·1 per cent.) of a tonnage of 843,385 were British.

In addition to the British lines there is a regular service of American vessels from New York, and Dutch vessels from Continental ports, and vessels of the German Woermann Linie have now resumed a programme of sailings, calling at Freetown.

IV. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, of which the following are the more important :—

No. 4 *of* 1921.—" The Colony and Protectorate Riot (Damages) Ordinance," which provided for the payment of compensation for damage done during the riots.

No. 7 *of* 1921.—" The Court Messengers' Ordinance." This revised and consolidated the law governing the force of Court Messengers.

No. 8 *of* 1921.—" The Headmen Ordinance," revising and consolidating the law relating to Headmen.

No. 14 *of* 1921.—" The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Amendment) Ordinance," providing for payment of pensions to widows and orphans of deceased officers on a basis of 8 per cent. compound interest, and otherwise amending the existing law.

No. 25 *of* 1921.—" The Liquor Licences (Consolidation) Ordinance," revising and consolidating the law relating to the issue of liquor licences.

V. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

(*a*) AGRICULTURE.

During the year investigations were undertaken by an Indian rice cultivator and his assistant, specially appointed for the purpose, into the potentialities of swamp rice cultivation in the rich swamps of the Scarcies River and elsewhere. The reports made were distinctly encouraging. The yields of rice obtained from measured areas of swamp without tilth, manuring, or cultivation of any kind compare favourably with those obtained from the richest swamp areas in India, where manuring and irrigation and other forms of cultivation are necessary. The rice grown was of a quality that would command good prices in any market, and there seems to be no doubt that, properly developed, the swamp areas of the Protectorate are capable of yielding vast quantities of rice, both for local consumption and for export.

The work of encouragement and instruction in growing cacao in the Protectorate was followed up with fair results, but in many cases the fermentation of the beans was incorrectly or carelessly done.

The experimental stations at Njala and Batkanu were maintained and fair results were obtained. Experiments in cultivation were made with a motor tractor, provided for the Department, with very satisfactory results.

The crops on the whole were good. The slump in trade naturally had an adverse effect upon the harvesting of palm produce.

(*b*) FORESTRY.

The Peninsula Reserves were looked after during the year. The main work of the year has been the continuation of the demarcation of Forest Reserves in the Protectorate, and in the selection of sites for new Reserves. The Reserves, which are at present of value for climatic rather than for commercial purposes, now comprise an area of 205 square miles. They contain practically no land where farming is advisable, but small supplies of timber have been obtained from them for local use. The Reserve Settlement Court did not sit during the year.

The Mangrove Forest at Mabang is being worked by an American firm, which supplies sleepers and firewood to the Railway.

Owing to the difficulties of transportation and the lack of a saw-mill properly equipped for dealing with large logs, the exploitation of native timber has not progressed as an industry of any importance.

Work has been proceeded with in the Kessewe Forest Reserve with gum copal, with fairly encouraging results.

(c) NATIVE INDUSTRIES.

These are few and only sufficient to meet local requirements; the most important being the fishing industry. Large quantities of imperfectly dried and cured fish are made on the coast and sent into the interior for sale.

Properly organised, a fishing industry could be made a profitable undertaking.

VI. EDUCATION.

In both the Colony and Protectorate education is largely in the hands of the Missions.

(A) COLONY.

The Government Institutions are the following:—

The Model School, providing both primary and secondary education and training classes for teachers. There are 219 boys and 65 girls attending the primary classes; 35 boys attending the secondary classes and 16 boys attending the training classes.

The Madrasas or Mohammedan Schools are five in number and provide elementary education for 413 boys and 191 girls.

The standard of the Model School is good, but the class rooms are congested and additional accommodation is required.

The following schedules give details of the non-Government primary schools in the Colony, divided into two groups—aided and non-aided.

(a) *Aided Primary Schools in Colony.*

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Number on Rolls.	
		Boys.	Girls.
1. Anglican	42	1,620	1,375
2. Wesleyan Methodist ..	29	1,148	860
3. Roman Catholic	9	494	296
4. United Methodist	10	324	278
5. Countess of Huntingdon ..	4	104	79
6. United Brethren in Christ ..	1	89	38
	95	3,779	2,926

These schools earned £3,748 in Government Grants in 1921.

(*b*) *Non-Aided Primary Schools in Colony.*

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Number on Rolls.	
		Boys.	Girls.
1. Anglican	5	245	146
2. Wesleyan Methodist..	4	68	44
3. Roman Catholic	2	70	37
4. United Methodist	4	40	32
5. Countess of Huntingdon	6	118	52
6. Seventh Day Adventist	3	90	48
7. United Brethren in Christ	1	6	4
8. African Methodist Episcopal ..	2	121	85
	27	758	448

Secondary Schools.

There are eleven secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Model School. Of these, three are assisted schools. Three schools have submitted no details.

The total number on the rolls of the schools submitting details are 1,012 and the average attendance 815. The three assisted secondary schools received £279 in Capitation Grants.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham), the Grammar School and the Albert Academy for boys and the Annie Walsh School for girls.

Examinations are held for all schools for the Elementary and Intermediate Examinations: all candidates for the Civil Service Entrance Examinations must have passed the latter examination.

	Candidates.	Passes.
Elementary Certificate Examination	355	174
Intermediate Certificate Examination	193	82

Examinations are also held for the Cambridge Junior and Senior Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year :—

	Entered	*Passed*
Cambridge Junior ..	29 ..	17
Cambridge Senior ..	13 ..	3

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated to Durham University, holds examinations for the M.A. and B.A. degrees, and fifteen students received the B.A., and one the M.A. degree in 1921.

Trades Schools.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School was opened last year; it is partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government Grant.

(B) PROTECTORATE.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are:—

(1) The Bo School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs.
(2) The Agricultural College, N'Jala.
(3) Bumpe School.
(4) Baiima School.
(5) Gbangbama School.
(6) Gambia.

The last three are Anglo-vernacular schools.

The Bo School has 140 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

N'Jala Agricultural College is a boarding school for the training of vernacular school teachers and has 64 boys on the roll. It is intended to produce teachers with a practical knowledge of agriculture. At present the school is restricted to Mendi pupils.

The Bumpe School had an average attendance of 40 boys; the Baiima School 24.

So far nothing has been done by Government for the education of girls in the Protectorate.

VII. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) SAVINGS BANK.

There is a Savings Bank in connection with the Post Office, but its business has declined in recent years, largely owing to the growth of the Savings Bank business of the two Banks.

(*b*) HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire early in 1920 and all records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new Hospital, which was nearing completion by the end of 1921, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

747 patients were admitted to the Colonial Hospital and there were 56 deaths, one following operation; 40 operations were performed. There were 13 patients in hospital at the end of the year.

5,654 out-patients were treated at the Colonial Hospital, 3,131 at the Cline Town Dispensary and 2,458 at the Kissy Dispensary.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, there were 112 inmates on 31st December, 1920, 38 were admitted during the year, 41 were discharged and 19 died, leaving 90 inmates on 31st December, 1921.

The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

The following are the statistics of the Infirmaries :—

	Female.	Male.	Total.
Under treatment on Dec. 31, 1920 ..	33	58	91
Admitted during year	129	185	314
Discharged	70	154	224
Died	20	56	76
In Hospital Dec. 31, 1920	22	33	55

At the Leper Asylum there were two patients at the beginning of the year; there were no admissions and no deaths.

Fifty cases of small-pox and chicken-pox were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, of which one died.

NURSING HOME.

There were 171 admissions, 67 being Government officials, 103 were cases of malaria and 6 cases of blackwater fever. One official and one non-official died.

VIII. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, Police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1921 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, five European Inspectors and 318 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, as compared with a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, eleven European Inspectors and 291 Non-Commissioned Officers and men in 1920.

The health of the Force was fairly good.

The standard of discipline maintained was satisfactory.

The following table shows the cases reported and arrests made in 1920 and 1921 :—

Year.	Cases reported.	Arrests made.	Convictions.	Percentage convictions to arrests.
1920	2,078	2,480	1,959	79%
1921	1,879	1,707	1,317	77%

The following is a comparative statement of the serious crimes reported during the two years :—

	1920		1921
Murder	2	..	1
House-breaking	11	..	15
Burglary	6	..	10
Shop-breaking	22	..	31
Rape	0	..	4
Larceny	866	..	664
Receiving	129	..	50

FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the Town Council. No serious fire occurred during the year.

PRISONS.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1920 and 1921 :—

	1920		1921
Males	1,324	..	1,012
Females	22	...	8
Juveniles	34	..	23

The average prison population in 1920 was 431 males and 4 females, and in 1921, 314 males and 4 females. 110 persons were convicted in the Higher Court. There was no execution.

The high standard of health maintained during recent years was marred by an outbreak of beri-beri. There were 180 admissions to hospital during the year and 25 deaths.

In the Protectorate prisons 1,019 persons were committed to prison in 1921, as compared with 1,068 in 1920, the daily average for the year being 196.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

In the Supreme Court of the Colony 96 persons were convicted, 23 for larceny and 49 for other offences against property, as compared with 100 in 1920, of which 28 were for offences against property.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate 23 persons were convicted, of which 19 were for larceny and 4 for other offences against property, as compared with 94 in 1920, of which 8 were offences against property.

In the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 1,906 persons were convicted summarily, 549 being for larceny and 983 for offences against revenue laws and kindred laws, as compared with 2,214 convictions in 1920, 906 for larceny and 1,078 for offences against revenue laws.

In the District Commissioner's Court at Waterloo there were 153 convictions, 70 being for larceny.

In the Courts of the Provincial Commissioners of the Protectorate 1,096 persons were convicted.

IX. VITAL STATISTICS, &c.

EUROPEAN POPULATION.

The number of European (including American) residents at the time of taking the 1921 census in the Colony and Protectorate was:—

Officials	141
Non-Officials	701
Military	319
	1,161

The average number of official residents was 144, as compared with 133 in 1920, and 15 were invalided during the year. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans from climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912:

Years.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Total.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic	Non-Climatic	Clim.	Non-Clim.	
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ..	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ..	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ..	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921 ..	—	1	5	3	—	—	9

* Influenza Epidemic.

HILL STATION.

The total number of residents at Hill Station at the time the 1921 census was taken was 87, as compared with 49 in 1920; of these 30 were officials, 4 missionaries, 35 military and 18 non-officials, including wives of civil and military officials. On the whole the health of the residents was good.

POPULATION OF THE COLONY
(*as distinguished from the Protectorate*).

The population of the Colony was returned at the census of 1921 as 85,163 (47,654 males and 37,599 females). The number of births registered in 1921 was 1,562, or 18 per 1,000, and of deaths 1,926, or 22 per 1,000. According to the census of 1921 the population of Freetown was 44,142; 749 births and 1,080 deaths were registered, or 17 per 1,000 and 24 per 1,000 respectively.

The excess of deaths over births both in Freetown and in the Colony generally cannot be depended on as being accurate. Registration of births and deaths is nominally compulsory in Freetown and the Colony, but while the registration of deaths is probably correct, as bodies have to be buried, the registration of births is not accurate. There is a large proportion of Protectorate natives in Freetown and the Colony, many of whom will not trouble to register the births of children.

Sixty-six births were registered in Freetown and Cline Town. These are not included in the above totals.

PROTECTORATE POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Protectorate is 1,456,148. This is based on the census made during the course of the year under review.

VACCINATION.

Thirty-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine vaccinations were performed during the year, as compared with 26,672 in 1920; of these 10,917 were successful, 6,594 unsuccessful, and 18,278 were not seen afterwards. Vaccination was made compulsory in the Freetown Police District.

SANITATION.

An outbreak of small-pox of a mild type occurred in Freetown in the months of April and May, 26 cases being reported with only one death. The port was in quarantine from 1st April to 14th May. Apart from this outbreak, the Colony and Protectorate were comparatively free from epidemic disease during the year.

Quarantine was declared against various West African ports, mainly owing to small-pox; but plague was reported from Portuguese Guinea and Dakar in French Guinea.

The number of mosquito larvæ prosecutions in the Freetown Police Court was 482, as compared with 438 in 1920.

The closing of wells in Freetown was continued, 42 being closed during the year, leaving only about 12 to be dealt with in 1922.

About 460 yards of concrete surface drainage were put in by the Sanitary Engineer, mainly in the Western area of Freetown, and minor drainage improvements were carried out in various parts of the town.

Eighty thousand five hundred and seventy-eight rats were paid for by the Sanitary Department at the rate of 3*d*. each. A systematic examination of tinned foodstuffs carried out during the year led to the seizure and destruction of a good deal of unsound food.

The Superintendent of Waterworks reports that there was a shortage of water for about two months in the year, from the middle of March to the middle of May. The average daily consumption of water during the year was 364,160 gallons, or about 8·25 gallons per head of the population.

CLIMATE.

The rainy season of 1921 was characterised by exceptionally heavy rainfall in August, the total for that month being 48·56 inches, the highest reading since 1903. This was in marked contrast to August, 1920, when the rainfall was 11·52 inches, the lowest ever recorded in Freetown. The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 6·65 inches on August 22nd. November, with a rainfall of 9·35 inches, was also an abnormally wet month. Rainfall records for Freetown, taken at Tower Hill Observatory, are now available for a period of 40 years. The average annual rainfall for this period was 152·46 inches, for the period 1882–1901 the average was 165·60 inches, while for the period 1902–21 it was 139·74 inches. From 1908 to 1921 the rainfall was much below the average for the previous 26 years, and did not in any of these years reach 150 inches.

The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 64° on 8th July; highest, 97° on 17th February.

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Both money order and postal order business show a material reduction, part of which is due to the transmission of currency notes by post.

The revenue and expenditure for 1913, the last pre-war year, 1920, and 1921 are as follows :—

	1913.	1920.	1921.
Revenue	£14,487	£11,994	£13,739
Expenditure	£12,124	£16,582	£16,820
Customs duties collected through Post Office	£2,588	£10,370	£8,696
Stamps sold for Inland Revenue purposes (value)	£2,491	£3,789	£4,104
Number of Post Offices open ..	53	44	43

The 1913 revenue was to a certain extent abnormal owing to large sales of Georgian stamps to collectors, the revenue for 1912 being £9,547, and in 1914 £9,782.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The Telegraphs and Telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles from Freetown). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano on the railway there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengema to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a boat service, and from Sengema there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles).

From Songo Town (on the railway) there is a telephone to Port Lokko and Mabanta. This was constructed by, and is under the control of the Imperial Military Authorities.

Apart from railway messages the following messages were transmitted :

	1920.		1921.
Public Telegrams ..	56,950	.. ..	49,242
Government Telegrams	11,807	.. ..	12,048

The revenue from telegrams was £4,977, as compared with £5,577 in 1920.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and sent through the office in Freetown of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown with 79 subscribers, of which 27 are Government offices and quarters, 19 are railway offices, and 33 private subscribers.

The telephone revenue in 1921 amounted to £1,050, and the maintenance cost £570.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

(*a*) RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½	Main Line. Water Street to Pendembu.
104	Branch Line. Boia to Kamabai.
5½	Hill Station Line.
1	Branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.
338	

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1921, was £1,694,505.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1920 and 1921 :—

	1913.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Gross Revenue	168,418	199,139	161,768
Expenditure	90,155	232,375*	243,484

* Exclusive of £20,427 extraordinary expenditure.

	1913.	1920.	1921.
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ..	114·11	105·86	96·25
Working expenses per train-mile ..	61·09	123·53	132·21
Passengers carried	438,388	507,272	617,241

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 41 engines, 95 coaching vehicles, and 389 goods vehicles, including 39 service vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 47,053 tons, as compared with 57,294 in 1920 and 62,084 in 1913.

(*b*) ROADS.

A programme of road and bridge construction, necessarily curtailed owing to the financial state of the Colony, was proceeded with. About eight miles of first-class roads and seven miles of second-class roads were added to the existing system. A certain amount of steel bridging was put in on the Bo-Pujehun and Panguma roads.

(c) WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light-draught vessels. Large quantities of produce are brought both to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways, and a launch service would probably develop the trade in the areas served by the waterways to a greater extent.

XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

The programme of the Public Works Department was cut down to a minimum owing to the financial state of the Colony, and apart from road construction and maintenance and necessary works of sanitation in Freetown, the only work of great importance undertaken was the construction of the new Colonial Hospital. Two blocks were completed early in the year and block 3 was proceeded with.

XIII. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Geological Survey of the Colony and Protectorate was completed during the year. The results were of scientific interest, but with the exception of small deposits of iron ore and scattered deposits of clay no discoveries of economic value have been made. The reports on the complete survey have been published.

XIV. IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS AND ENQUIRIES.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government officers were furnished to the Government of Sierra Leone during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. In addition, information relating to various products of the Colony was supplied to enquirers.

Brush-making Fibre from the Oil Palm.—In continuation of the investigation of this fibre (*see* Report for 1920), a consignment was forwarded for practical trials by manufacturers. After making exhaustive tests, brush-makers reported that the fibre is too brittle for their purpose, and that it is unlikely to find a profitable market in the United Kingdom for the manufacture of brooms and brushes. It might possibly be employed in Sierra Leone for making brushes for local use, but would be much inferior to piassava.

Fibres.—A report by a planter in Sierra Leone, in which proposals were made for the production of palm fibre and other fibres in West Africa, was referred to the Imperial Institute by the Colonial Office. Observations on the various proposals were furnished by the Institute.

Timbers.—The Institute was consulted by one of the District Commissioners of the Colony on leave in the United Kingdom, as to the value in the United Kingdom of certain Sierra Leone timbers represented by specimens he had collected in the Sherbro Province.

Several of the samples were of considerable beauty, and if good supplies, fully up to the standard of the samples, are available, the woods would probably find a use in the United Kingdom. Of the more promising woods, the following may be mentioned :—

Mammy Apple (*Ochrocarpus africanum*), Almond (*Terminalia* sp.), Sugar Plum (*Uapaca* sp.), Monkey Apple (*Anisophylla laurina*), Koronko (*Griffonia pallescens*), Countah (*Afzelia africana*), Brimstone (*Morinda* sp.), Whismah.

It was suggested that representative plants of these timbers should be forwarded in order that the Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Timbers may consider the advisability of a trial consignment of the most promising being shipped for sale by auction in England to ascertain their value. In order to find a market for the timbers it is essential that they should be available in large quantities and should be offered at competitive prices.

Musanga Wood.—Two logs of Musanga wood were forwarded by the Conservator of Forests in order that its suitability for the manufacture of artificial limbs or light articles of various kinds might be determined. The results of experiments at the Imperial Institute indicated that the wood, owing to its short grain, would not be suitable for the manufacture of artificial limbs, and this opinion was confirmed by trials by manufacturers and by the Ministry of Pensions. It might be employed for the manufacture of toys and certain small articles, but it is doubtful whether there would be any special demand for Musanga wood in the United Kingdom for this purpose.

The wood appeared more promising as a source of paper pulp, and was consequently examined from that point of view. In trials by the soda process the wood required rather drastic treatment, but gave a good yield of pulp suitable for the production of strong pale brown paper. A somewhat higher yield of pulp, which bleached almost white, was obtained by the sulphite process, though the paper was not quite so strong or so soft. It should, however, be possible by modification of the sulphite treatment to obtain a pulp which will furnish white paper of good quality. Musanga wood could probably not be profitably exported as a paper-making material, but could be utilised for the manufacture of pulp for export if a mill were established in the Colony.

Brick-making Clays.—Fifteen samples of clay were forwarded in order that their suitability for brick-making might be determined. Technical trials were made at the Imperial Institute with all the raw clays, and in most cases also with mixtures of each clay with varying proportions of "grog," or with certain of the other samples. Only one of the clays would be suitable for use alone for the manufacture of bricks, and even in this case an improvement would be effected by the addition of an appropriate amount of "grog." Most of the other clays contained a large amount of siliceous material, and the bricks made from them lacked coherence after firing, but, with two exceptions, they could be used in conjunction with certain of the other samples.

Yohimbe Bark.—Specimens of the bark of *Corynanthe Lane-Poolei* from Sierra Leone were furnished by the Imperial Institute in connection with an investigation of the varieties of Yohimbe bark now in progress in the Botanical Department of a university.

Scientific Apparatus.—The names of firms able to supply certain apparatus required in connection with the testing of minerals in Sierra Leone were forwarded to an enquirer.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following articles, relating to products from Sierra Leone or to subjects of special interest to that country, were published in the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute for 1921 :—

"West African Corkwood."
"The Preparation of Palm Oil for Edible Purposes."
"Palm Oil as Motor Fuel."
"Oil Palm Machinery."
"Pests of the Oil Palm in Portuguese Congo."
"Commercial Utilization of Cotton Stalks."

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

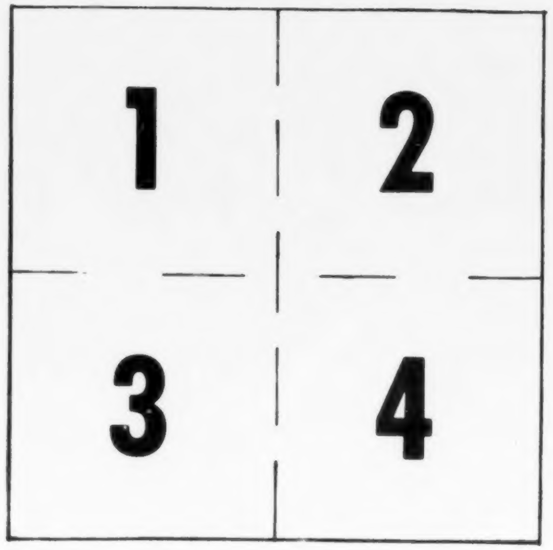
The arrangement of the exhibits has been improved and descriptive labels prepared for various specimens.

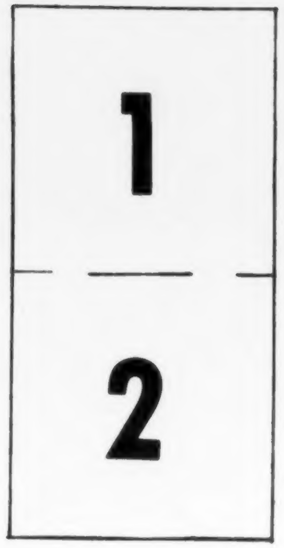
No new exhibits have been received for exhibition.

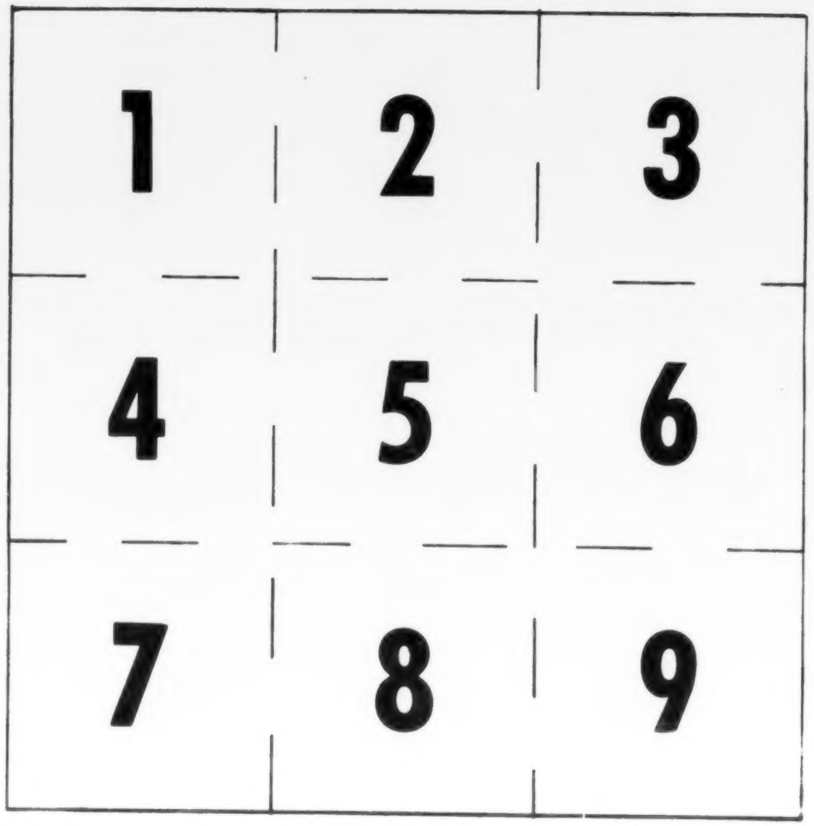
W. B. STANLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

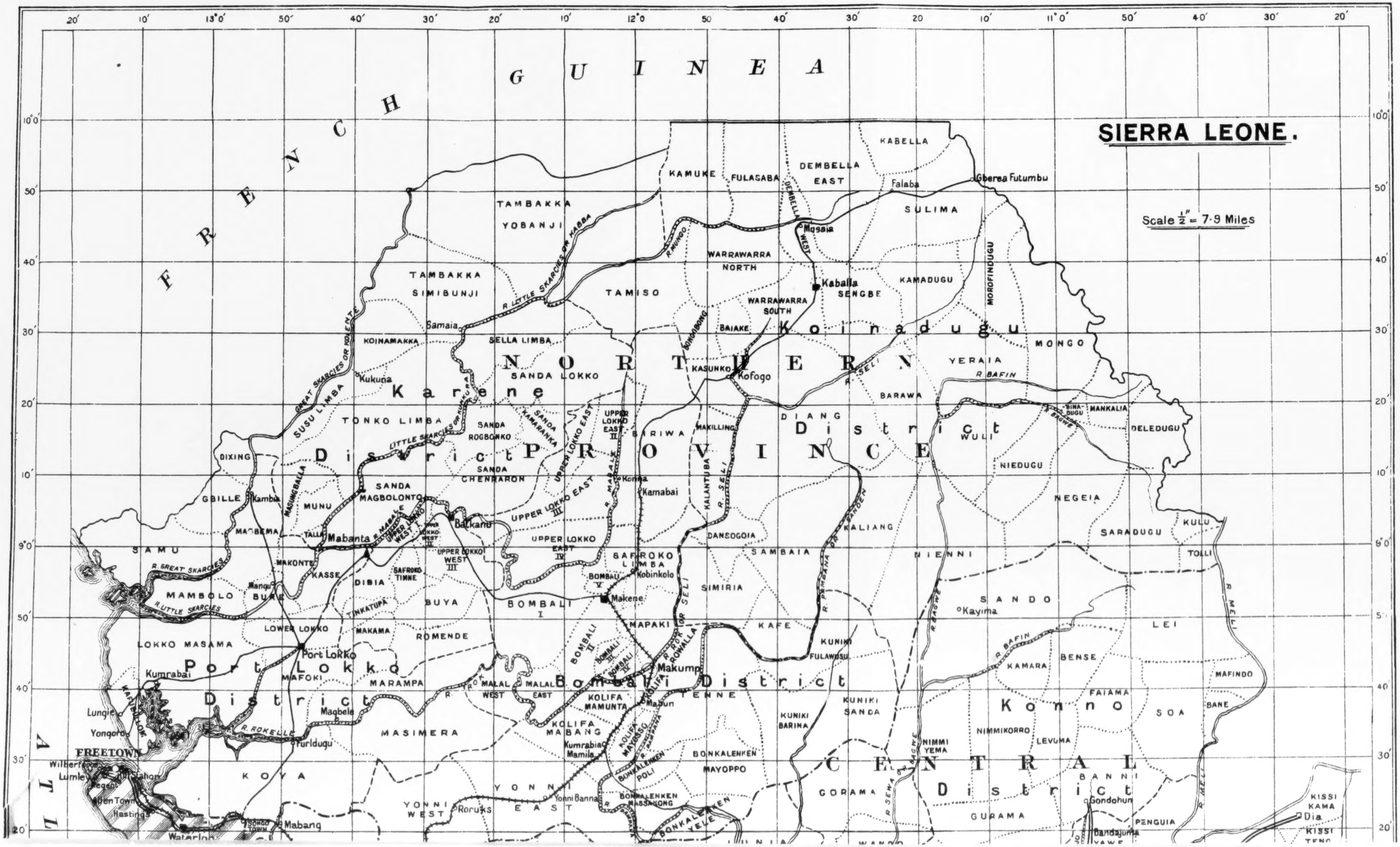
September, 1922.

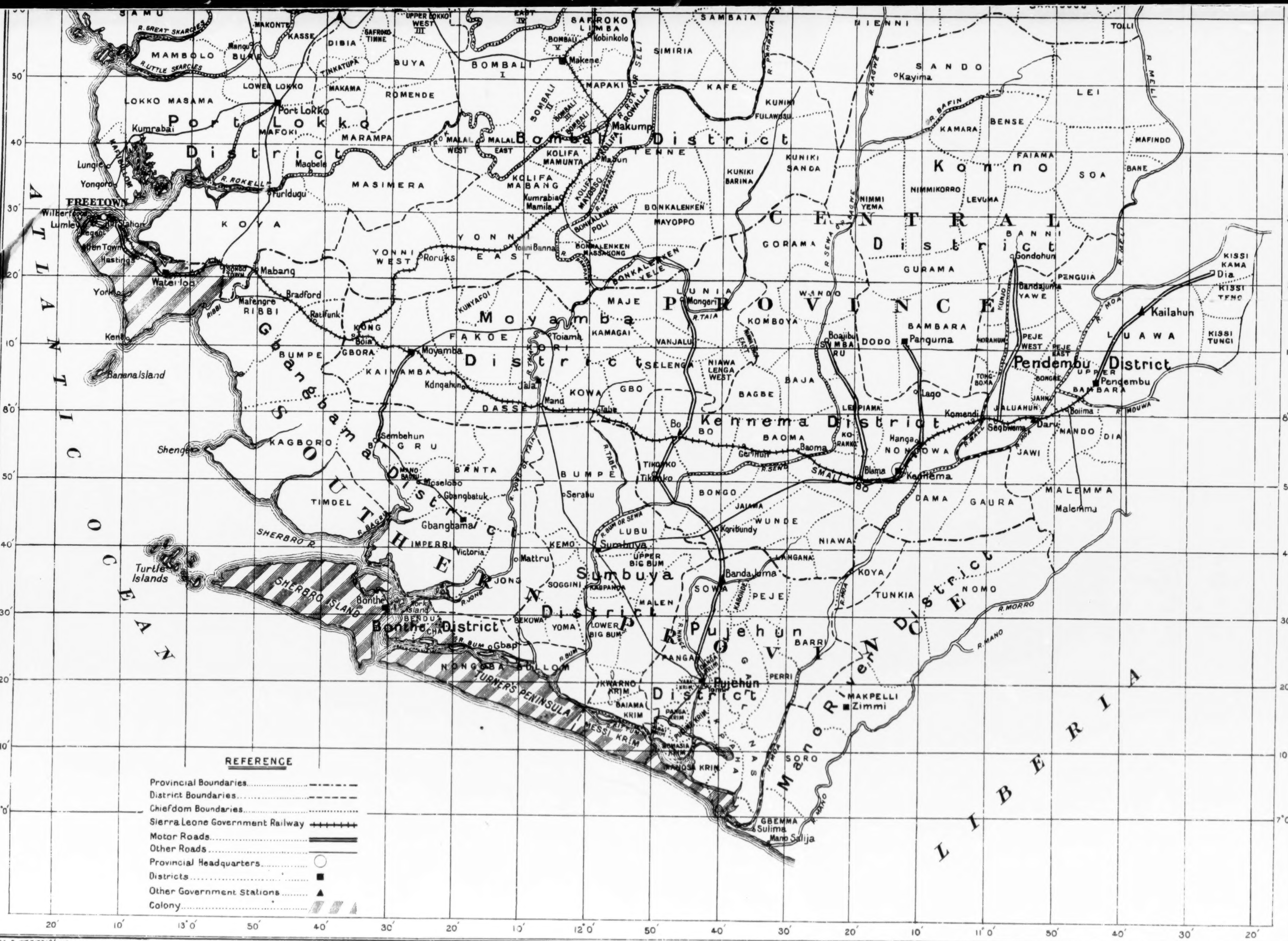
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.








SIERRA LEONE.
Scale 1/2" = 7·9 Miles
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
Koinadugu District
Karene District
Port Lokko District
Bombali District
CENTRAL District
Konno
KABELLA
KAMUKE
FULASABA
DEMBELLA EAST
DEMBELLA WEST
Gberea Futumbu
Falaba
SULIMA
Mosaia
TAMBAKKA YOBANJI
TAMBAKKA SIMIBUNJI
WARRAWARRA NORTH
WARRAWARRA SOUTH
Kaballa
SENGBE
KAMADUGU
MOROFINDUGU
TAMISO
MONGO
BAIAKE
KASUNKO
Kofogo
YERAIA
BARAWA
DIANG
WULI
BINADUGU
MANKALIA
DELEDUGU
NIEDUGU
NEGEIA
SARADUGU
KULU
TOLLI
NIENNI
SANDO
Kayima
LEI
KAMARA
BENSE
MAFINDO
FAIAMA
SOA
BANE
NIMMIKORRO
NIMMI YEMA
LEVUMA
BANNI
Gondohun
GURAMA
PENGUIA
KISSI KAMA
Dia
KISSI TENG
Bandajuma YAWE
KONINAMAKKA
Samaia
SELLA LIMBA
SANDA LOKKO
Kukuna
TONKO LIMBA
SUSU LIMBA
SANDA ROGBONKO
SANDA KAMARANKA
SANDA CHENRARON
SANDA MAGBOLONTO
UPPER LOKKO EAST
UPPER LOKKO WEST
BIRIWA
MAKILLING
KALANTUBA
Konna
Kamabai
DANSOGOIA
KALIANG
SAMBAIA
SIMIRIA
SAFROKO LIMBA
Kobinkolo
BOMBALI
Makene
MAPAKI
KAFE
KUNIKI FULAWUSU
KUNIKI SANDA
KUNIKI BARINA
Makump
TENNE
Magbun
KOLIFA MAMUNTA
KOLIFA MABANG
KOLIFA MAYOSSO
Kumrabai Mamila
BONKALENKEN MAYOPPO
BONKALENKEN POLI
BONKALENKEN MASSAHONG
BONKALENKEN YELE
GORAMA
YONNI EAST
YONNI WEST
Roruks
Yonni Banna
DIXING
GBILLE
Kambia
MASUNGBALA
MUNU
MAGBEMA
TALLA
Mabanta
Batkanu
SAMU
MAKONTE
KASSE
DIBIA
SAFROKO TIMNE
BUYA
MAMBOLO
Mangu
BURE
TINKATUPA
MAKAMA
ROMENDE
LOWER LOKKO
LOKKO MASAMA
Port Lokko
Kumrabai
MAFOKI
MARAMPA
MALAL WEST
MALAL EAST
Maobele
Lungie
KAFFU BULLOM
Yongoro
MASIMERA
Furldugu
FREETOWN
Wilberforce
Lumley
Regent
Allen Town
Hastings
Waterloo
Mabang
KOYA
R. Great Skarcies
R. Little Skarcies
R. Rokelle
R. Mabole
R. Seli
R. Mungo
R. Bafin
R. Bagwe
R. Meli
R. Pampana or Sanden
R. Sewa or Bagwe
Great Skarcies or Kolente
R. Little Skarcies or Kabba
Little Skarcies or Kukuna
20'
10'
13°0'
50'
40'
30'
12°0
11°0'
10°0'
9°0'


ATLANTIC OCEAN
LIBERIA
CENTRAL PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
Port Lokko District
Bombali District
Konno District
Moyamba District
Kennema District
Pendembu District
Gbangbama District
Sumbuya District
Bonthe District
Pujehun District
Mano River District
FREETOWN
Wilberforce
Lumley
Regent
Hastings
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Island
Turtle Islands
Sherbro Island
Turners Peninsula
Shenge
Port Lokko
Kumrabai
Lungie
Yongoro
Magbele
Furldugu
Makene
Makump
Mabang
Bradford
Ratifunk
Boia
Moyamba
Kdngahun
Mano
Toiama
Taiama
Sembehun
Moselobo
Gbangbatuk
Gbangbama
Victoria
Mattru
Bonthe
Gbap
Sumbuya
Serabu
Bo
Gerihun
Baoma
Blama
Kennema
Hanga
Panguma
Lago
Komendi
Segbwema
Daru
Boiima
Pendembu
Kailahun
Dia
Gondohun
Bandajuma
Kayima
Malemma
Koribundy
Banda Juma
Pujehun
Zimmi
Sulima
Mano Salija
Mongeri
Tikonko
Rotifunk
Yonni Banna
Mamila
SAMU
MAMBOLO
LOKKO MASAMA
MAFOKI
MARAMPA
MASIMERA
KOYA
YONNI WEST
YONNI EAST
KONG
BUMPE
GBORA
KAIYAMBA
FAKOE
KORI
DASSE
KAGBORO
TIMDEL
IMPERRI
BAGRU
BANTA
JONG
KEMO
SOGGINI
BEKOWA
YOMA
NONGOBA BULLOM
LUBU
KOWA
GBO
BUMPE
MAJE
KAMAGAI
VANJALU
SELENGA
BAGBE
BAJA
BONGO
JAIAMA
WUNDE
NIAWA
LANGANA
KOYA
TUNKIA
NOMO
BARRI
PERRI
MAKPELLI
SORO
GBEMMA
SOWA
PEJE
MALEN
GALLINAS
KWARNO KRIM
BAIAMA KRIM
MESSI KRIM
SAMBAIA
NIENNI
SANDO
LEI
TOLLI
KAMARA
BENSE
MAFINDO
FAIAMA
SOA
BANE
NIMMIKORRO
LEVUMA
GORAMA
BANNI
GURAMA
PENGUIA
WANDO
BAMBARA
DODO
LUAWA
KISSI KAMA
KISSI TENG
KISSI TUNGI
MANDO
DIA
JAWI
DAMA
GAURA
MALEMMA
NONGOWA
SIMIRIA
KAFE
KUNIKE
TENNE
BUYA
ROMENDE
MAKAMA
KASSE
DIBIA
BOMBALI
SAFROKO LIMBA
BONKALENKEN
MAYOPPO
KUNIKI SANDA
KUNIKI BARINA
R. GREAT SKARCIES
R. LITTLE SKARCIES
R. ROKELL
R. SEWA
R. MOA
R. MANO
R. MORRO
R. MELI
R. BAFIN
R. JONG
R. BUM
R. TAIA
R. WANJE
SHERBRO R.
REFERENCE
Provincial Boundaries
District Boundaries
Chiefdom Boundaries
Sierra Leone Government Railway
Motor Roads
Other Roads
Provincial Headquarters ○
Districts ■
Other Government Stations ▲
Colony ▨
9°0′
50′
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7°0′
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11°0′

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92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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No 1165.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1150.)

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No. 1165.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1922.*

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

(a) *Geographical.*

Sierra Leone, consisting of the Colony and Protectorate, is about the size of Ireland (30,000 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of west longitude. The greatest depth from north to south is rather over 200 miles, and from west to east about 180 miles.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Bonthe Island and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, as it is a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds. These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 851.

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readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 330 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163.

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account, during the Great War, Freetown Harbour was of great importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is, on the whole, well laid out with straight and often broad streets, which is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who formed the nucleus of a well-planned town. During the past ten years a number of fine buildings and offices have been erected, and during the past four years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time over a hundred motor vehicles ply in Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there is a large reservation of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is 44,142 (1921 Census).

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers, and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. Speaking generally, the Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are at least eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, which forms part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel to Turner's Peninsula (formerly part of the Colony), is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards

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Sherbro Island even in the dry season, and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain parts on the Sewa and Wunje rivers.

The nature of the country also varies considerably. Roughly speaking, a line drawn due east from Freetown indicates approximately the point at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south merges with the more open thinly-wooded, grassy country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of nearly 50 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is considerably denser in the southern or forest regrowth belt (locally known as " bush " country).

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, is 1,456,148, and is composed of the following tribes :—

Northern Province..	Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos, Limbas, Lokkos, and Timnes, with some Mandingoes and Fullahs.
Central Province ..	Konnohs, Kissis and Mendes.
Southern Province ..	Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Mendes.

The Mendes are far more numerous than the other tribes.

The largest towns in the Protectorate have a population of about 2,000, but these are comparatively few in number ; the bulk of the population resides in villages ranging in size from 30 to 100 houses.

(b) *Historical.*

In one respect the history of Sierra Leone differs from that of other British West African colonies ; from the commencement Sierra Leone was really a colony and not merely a trading station. Her colonists were certain Africans who became stranded in London after the close of the American War in 1782, in which they had taken part, and certain Europeans presumably seeking adventure. In 1787 a party of these colonists, under Captain Thompson of the Royal Navy, to whom had been entrusted the task of forming a settlement, landed at Sierra Leone and succeeded in obtaining from the local chief (King Tom) a grant of land of about 20 square miles on the site which is at present occupied by Freetown. This grant was subsequently confirmed in 1788 by the paramount chief (Nembanna, which, strictly speaking, means Regent Chief), who ceded the land for ever on receiving payment.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from native chiefs. In 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate ; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy, then engaged in suppressing the overseas slave traffic.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Timnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 King Farina and King Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies. In 1808 the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed. From this date the condition of the Colony commenced to improve. It is interesting to note that from 1814 to 1888, a period of 74 years, 18 Governors or Acting Governors (with the exception of one who was killed) died in Sierra Leone or on their way home from the Colony, out of a total of 60 different officers who administered the government during that period.

About 1820 the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and a number of treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullom—were ceded to the Crown ; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. About 1852 the Government of the Colony began to make its weight felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. The same year the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony. In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the Northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the Eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate, which commenced in the Karene District by the refusal of a Timne chief (Bai Bureh) to pay the House Tax, which was being imposed for the first time. In April the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved.

Early in the following year the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful. Progress has, perhaps, been slower than in other West African Colonies, but it has been steady.

I. GENERAL.

The depression in trade which formed so marked a feature of the year 1921 continued throughout the following year. The trade of Sierra Leone is largely dependent upon market price of palm kernels and kola nuts, which form 87 per cent. of the domestic exports of the Colony, and market prices of these products in 1922 generally were much lower than those offering in 1921.

It is all the more satisfactory, therefore, to record that, in spite of such a serious handicap, the volume of export of these products showed a substantial increase over the figures for the previous year and was equal to an average annual export from the Colony.

On the other hand the total value of domestic produce exported was slightly less than the value of such produce shipped in 1921 and much less than the average value of domestic exports in recent years.

This decline in local purchasing power was reflected in the decreased value of imports, although owing to the lower cost of commodities the volume of imports was practically the same as in 1921.

The feature of the year is the satisfactory manner in which the Colony has grappled with the most adverse trade conditions, shipments of produce being steadily maintained in spite of persistent disappointments in the home market.

It is clear, also, that economies have been effected in the cost of living locally and that there has been a general effort to make expenditure meet income. The excess of value of net imports over net exports was reduced to £97,949 as compared with an excess of £226,235 in 1921. There has been a considerable reduction in the consumption of goods which might be regarded as luxuries, while the staple articles of trade, such as tobacco, cotton pieces, kerosene, sugar and salt show very substantial increases.

The shipping trade of the Colony developed appreciably and more vessels called at Freetown for the purpose of obtaining bunker coal, while the revenue from Customs duties shows an increase of 33 per cent. over the returns for the preceding year.

Although commercial conditions in 1922 were even less favourable than in 1921 the year was marked by a movement in local trade which was absent in the previous year—a movement which, if slight, was clearly in the right direction.

There has been shown greater thrift with greater production. These are economic assets of much value, which inspire confidence in the ability of the Colony to resist successfully prolonged periods of commercial depression and at the same time to maintain all available avenues of trade, so that when rising markets and better conditions prevail, immediate and full benefit may be obtained from them.

Since 1921 large reductions of European staff have been made : in one or two cases the holder has retired and the vacancy has been left unfilled ; in a few cases it has been possible to promote or transfer the holder to some other vacancy, but in the large majority of instances the officers have been actually retrenched from the service.

Altogether some fifty-seven European officers and 107 clerks and other subordinate officials have been retrenched, without counting about 250 non-commissioned officers and men of the West African Frontier Force. It is calculated that these retrenchments have saved the Colony about £55,000 per annum.

The new Governor, Mr. A. R. Slater, C.M.G., C.B.E., arrived in the Colony on the 4th May, 1922, and assumed the administration of the government.

From the 1st January until the 3rd May, 1922, the government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Dr. J. C. Maxwell, C.M.G.

II. FINANCIAL.

(*a*) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £786,540 as compared with £638,315, in 1921, and was less than the original Estimate by £57,797.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1921, and 1922.

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Customs	317,643	338,962	454,383
Light Dues	6,938	7,316	8,173
Licences	79,745	72,874	73,827
Fees of Court	17,853	23,213	23,474
Post Office	14,487	13,739	13,034
Rents	417	655	761
Interest..	12,324	13,454	5,922
Miscellaneous	1,821	6,170	34,971
Railway	167,304	161,928	171,986
Land Sales	—	4	9
Reimbursement by Freetown Water Authority	—	—	—
Total	£618,383	£638,315	£786,540

The last complete year of peace working was 1913, and a large revenue was derived from duties on trade spirits.

As compared with the year 1921, all the heads of Revenue show increases, with the exception of Post Office and Interest, the largest being under the heads of Customs, Miscellaneous and Railway receipts. The increase in Customs receipts was principally due to increased Import and Export Duties imposed during 1921; the receipts under "Miscellaneous" were inflated by the sum of £28,445 in respect of value of certain unused railway materials brought on charge and surplus coal found in stock. Under Railway the increase may be ascribed to more traffic generally and to that of palm kernels in particular.

The decrease under Interest was principally due to the realisation of Surplus Funds Investments in 1922.

(*b*) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £816,977, compared with £982,032 in 1921, and was less than the original estimate by £14,717.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1921, and 1922:—

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	61,574	82,310	86,131
Pensions	8,228	24,945	43,396
Governor and Legislature	6,443	5,798	6,805
Colonial Secretary's Department	8,190	15,436	14,266
Provincial Administration	33,877	58,300	55,539
Treasury	4,813	7,197	8,521
Customs Department	14,683	19,397	17,954
Audit	3,051	4,338	3,709
Port and Marine Department	3,289	3,166	3,196
Legal Departments	11,670	14,807	14,483
Civil Police	10,082	22,846	22,817
Prisons	8,633	22,437	18,213
Medical Department	30,048	47,791	43,506
Sanitary ,,	8,951	19,239	19,304
Education ,,	13,296	26,298	24,617
Post Office ,,	12,124	16,820	17,328
West African Frontier Force	40,638	48,974	34,542
Railway Department	146,060	302,729	195,598
Agricultural ,,	2,842	7,501	7,011
Forest ,,	3,584	7,577	8,611
Miscellaneous Services	23,914	50,284	92,025
Protectorate Roads Department (now under P.W.D.)	7,558	—	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads)	13,622	29,008	24,767
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads)	18,897	40,494	30,851

EXPENDITURE.—*contd.*

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Public Works Extraordinary ..	58,856	42,510	22,751
Survey of Colony and Protectorate	228	—	—
Railway Construction	48,999	—	—
Freetown Water Works	6,657	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special)	11,633	—	—
War Services (Special)	—	930	—
Depreciation of Investments ..	—	60,000	1,000
Total	£622,439	£982,032	£816,977

The increased expenditure over the previous year occurred principally under (*a*) Charge on account of Public Debt, attributable to payment of interest on sums temporarily advanced by the Crown Agents for the Colonies ; (*b*) Pensions, due to the payment of gratuities taken by officers, together with decreased pensions under the provisions of the European Officers' Pensions' Ordinance of 1921 and the Non-European Officers' Pensions Ordinance of 1922, and arrears of Pensions contributions claimed by the War Office in respect of the prospective retired pay of British Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers employed in the West African Frontier Force ; (*c*) Miscellaneous Services, accounted for principally by the sum of £65,150 charged against this head in respect of advances and awards to Syrians in connection with the riots of 1919. Considerable decreases are shown under the majority of the heads of expenditure, due generally to retrenchment and the exercise of strict economy where possible. There were, however, several large items of expenditure in the year 1921 which fortunately did not recur this year, such as loss on sale of rice, £8,572, and interest on sums advanced by the War Office for payment of carriers for East Africa, £14,269. Also, last year there was an expenditure of £60,000 in respect of depreciation on investments, whereas in 1922 only £1,000 was required for this service.

(*c*) LOAN EXPENDITURE.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 (raised before the War) amounted to £942,827. Of this, £494,565 was spent on the redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,652 on Railway extension and £114,151 on Freetown Harbour Works and £822 on Roads Construction, leaving a balance unexpended of £7,637

(*d*) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £109,796.

The principal items are :

	£	£
Railways Stores	62,970	
Public Works Stores	18,111	
		81,081
Surplus Funds (Invested) ..		69,889
Cash Balance—Treasurer's Account	20,394	
Railway Open Line Account ..	5,660	
		26,054

On 31st December, 1922, the market value of the securities held in respect of Surplus Funds invested was £51,300.

(*e*) PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1922, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £222,981 8*s*. 5*d*.

(*f*) CURRENCY.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values, £5, £1, 10*s*., 2*s*., and 1*s*.

The stock of West African alloy coin at the beginning of the year was £93,800. This coin was issued to the two banks as required.

From the West African Currency Board £40,000 was received, and £99,700 was returned to the Currency Board's stocks by the banks during the year. £139,200 was shipped to the Gold Coast and £29,500 remained on hand at the end of the year.

This class of coin is now well received, and the sum in circulation at the end of the year was estimated at £90,000.

Nickel bronze-coin to the value of £134 was on hand at the commencement of the year and £30 was issued during the year.

The face value of West African currency notes held at the beginning of the year was £82,500. During the year notes to the value of £50,000 were received from the Currency Board and sums representing £148,325 were returned to Currency Board's stock by the banks. Of these latter, notes to the face value of £44,425 were destroyed. During the year the issues to the banks amounted to £54,500 and the balance on hand at the close of the year represented a face value of £181,900.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African currency notes issued in the other colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the redemption of large sums in excess of the face value of amounts issued.

The value of notes actually in circulation at the end of the year is estimated at £62,000.

(*g*) BANKING.

There are two banks—The Bank of British West Africa, and the Colonial Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of their business and which has materially affected the transactions at the Government Savings Bank.

III. TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

(*a*) IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1922 was £1,511,496, as compared with £1,769,628 in 1921.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1921 and 1922.

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,291,982	1,335,885	1,229,210
Government Imports	146,053	241,005	112,905
Specie	312,268	192,738	169,496
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,769,628	£1,511,496

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	354,488	383,521	380,890
Raw articles and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	103,680	279,156	144,073
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	914,103	780,546
Miscellaneous	418	110	36,606
Specie	312,268	192,738	169,381
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,769,628	£1,511,496

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1921	41,520
1922	43,526

and the rate of duty charged increased steadily from 5*s*. 6*d*. an imperial gallon at 50 per cent. Tralles on 1st January, 1913, to 25*s*. an imperial gallon of 50 per cent. Tralles on 31st December, 1922.

The value of spirits imported, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :—

	Per cent.
1913	5·18
1914	3·26
1915	4·47
1916	4·09
1917	3·57
1918	4·27
1919	2·83
1920	2·05
1921	2·18
1922	2·88

Cotton goods imported increased in volume and in value from £358,577 in 1921, to £369,104 in 1922, an increase of £10,527.

The commercial imports of coal during the two years were as follows :—

1921—25,403 tons, valued at £153,216; average price £6·032 per ton.

1922.	Tons.	Value.	Price Average.
		£	£
United Kingdom	29,600	76,128	6·01
Germany	4	6	1·10
Total	29,604	£76,134	£7·11

Imports of coal for the use of the Government were, from the United Kingdom, 6,396 tons at a cost of £16,151.

The tables given below show that, generally speaking, there is marked revival in cotton piece-goods, while " other " cottons have fallen away. The value of cotton pieces imported in 1922 was greater than in any of the pre-war years.

Cotton Piece-Goods.

Year.	Quantity Yards.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
		£	£	Per cent.
1912	14,538,851	231,676	22,014	10
1913	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10–12
1916	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15–20–25
1922	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25

Other Cotton Goods.

Year.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
	£	£	Per cent.
1912	150,068	13,945	10
1913	158,196	14,510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10–12
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,262	15–20–25
1922	56,348	12,696	25

It is interesting to examine how the Sierra Leone native is spending his earnings now as compared with pre-war times. In 1913 the value of Sierra Leone produce exported amounted to £1,376,603. In 1922 it amounted to £1,069,803 including the duty. The main imports are as follows :—

1913	£
Value of cottons imported plus duty ..	464,632
,, spirits ,, ,, ..	264,294
,, tobacco ,, ,,	129,941
	£858,867

1922	£
Value of cottons imported plus duty ..	506,922
,, spirits ,, ,,	68,145
,, tobacco ,, ,,	260,749
	£835,861

In 1922 he had less to spend than in 1913 and he spent a larger part of his earnings on cottons than he did formerly. He is now spending more on tobacco and cottons and less on spirits.

(*b*) EXPORTS.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £1,372,862, as compared with £1,731,252 in 1913. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel, such value includes export duty, cost of packages and all charges incidental to shipment. In previous reports export duty was not included in such values.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony	1,376,603	1,080,588	1,069,803
Coal	—	145,199	82,065
Other British and Foreign Produce Manufacture ..	113,685	124,868	92,298
Specie	240,964	312,980	128,696
Total	£1,731,352	£1,663,635	£1,372,862

The following is a comparative statement of the quantities of the principal exports :—

	1921.	1922.
Ginger (cwts.)	11,200	12,695
Hides (cwts.)	244	132
Kola Nuts (lbs.)	5,691,676	6,044,926
Palm Kernels (tons)	40,409	49,029
Palm Oil	119	2,076
Piassava	742	1,355
Rice (bushels)	1,540	1,375

The trade figures for the year are given in the following table :—

Year.	Commercial Imports.	Exports Produce of Colony.	Excess of Exports over Imports.	Excess of Imports over Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1913	1,291,982	1,376,603	84,621	—
1919	1,980,382	1,806,736	—	173,646
1920	3,175,835	2,747,743	—	928,092
1921	1,335,885	1,080,588	—	255,297
1922	1,229,210	1,069,803	—	159,407

Kola Nuts. In view of the low prices offering for this produce throughout the year, the quantity exported is remarkable.

Shipments amounted to 6,044,926 lb. as compared with 5,691,676 lb. in 1921. In spite of an increased export the value fell away by £117,296.

This is the lowest value for kolas during the last eleven years. There is little doubt that the competition of Grand Bassam is now being felt in the kola trade and that the increased production in West Africa has resulted in a fall in the price of this article. Although the nut is highly prized by the natives of the Gambia and French Senegal and there is a steady demand from Nigeria, the present low price of groundnuts, kernels and other West African products has seriously affected the kola trade. The native consumer is unable to pay the high prices which obtained in former years, whilst an almost prohibitive import duty like that in French Senegal still further reduces his purchasing power. The exporter in Sierra Leone suffers accordingly. He has either to reduce the selling price or to lose a market for his produce.

The local selling price during the year fluctuated between £2 and £5 10*s*. per measure of 176 lb.—a remarkable contrast with prices obtaining in 1917, when kolas were sold in Freetown at £30 a measure.

Palm Kernels. The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 49,029 tons, being an increase of 8,620 tons over the figures for the preceding year. Shipments during 1922 equalled the average exportation of the previous five years, and, in view of the low price of kernels which obtained in the European market throughout the year, the figures are encouraging as evidence of a growing disposition on the part of the producer to accommodate himself to home market prices.

The following table gives the average values at the port of shipment of palm kernels and palm oil during the last twenty years:—

Palm Kernels.

	£			£	
1902	8·90	per ton	1913	18·72	per ton
1903	8·63	,,	1914	15·52	,,
1904	8·51	,,	1915	12·72	,,
1905	9·57	,,	1916	15·02	,,
1906	10·88	,,	1917	14·52	,,
1907	12·82	,,	1918	16·74	,,
1908	9·87	,,	1919	23·54	,,
1909	11·25	,,	1920	27·79	,,
1910	14·98	,,	1921	16·95	,,
1911	15·33	,,	1922	17·10	,,
1912	15·63	,,			

Palm Oil.

	£			£	
1902	14·15	per ton	1913	22·95	per ton
1903	15·09	,,	1914	21·99	,,
1904	16·97	,,	1915	23·60	,,
1905	17·33	,,	1916	23·92	,,
1906	18·32	,,	1917	28·72	,,
1907	21·07	,,	1918	32·38	,,
1908	18·53	,,	1919	34·84	,,
1909	18·77	,,	1920	59·63	,,
1910	24·24	,,	1921	40·35	,,
1911	26·73	,,	1922	35·67	,,
1912	23·00	,,			

This table shows that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1902, the value during 1920 was altogether abnormal.

The exports of kernels and palm oil in 1922 largely exceeded the figures for 1921 and have approximated to those for 1920, thus :—

	Palm Kernels—Tons.			Palm Oil—Tons.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Tons	50,425	40,409	49,029	2,066	191	2,076

This is the more satisfactory seeing that with the exception of a brief spurt in palm oil in the early part of the year prices were deplorably poor compared with 1920 and 1921 :—

	Palm Kernels.			Palm Oil.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	45	23	17½	89	36	39¼
February ..	48	19½	18	90	31½	37½
March ..	46	18	18¾	87	30	45½
April	40	18	18½	77	28	42
May	36	20	17¾	61	29	36
June	31	19	17¾	53	34	33
July	31	21	17¾	51	35	33
August ..	37	23	17½	57	36	32
September ..	40½	22	16¼	58	38	31
October ..	38	18	16½	55	34	32
November ..	34	18	17	48	37	33½
December ..	28	18¼	17¼	40	36	33½

Not only was the average Liverpool price of kernels in 1922 (£17 15*s.*) much inferior to the average of 1912 (£19 16*s.* 8*d.*) and 1913 (£23 6*s.*) but the pound sterling has lost much of its purchasing power, and the financial needs of Government have necessitated the imposition of an export duty of £1 a ton. It might be expected that all these adverse factors would be reflected in the exports, but this is not so, and if there has been since 1912 no great expanding power in the principal export it has at least shown a marked resiliency :—

Exports of Palm Kernels since 1912.

	Tons.
1912	50,751
1913	49,201
1914	35,915
1915	39,624
1916	45,316
1917	58,020
1918	40,816
1919	50,622
1920	50,425
1921	40,409
1922	49,029

The export of ginger showed an increase of 770 tons (£23,393) over the figures for the preceding year. In all 1,330 tons were shipped to the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The average price obtainable (36*s*. 9*d*. per cwt.) was considerably in advance of the quotations for 1921, and this fact is accountable for the increased shipment. This is a product capable of some development locally, but the absence of steadiness in home market prices is largely responsible for the lack of interest in its cultivation in the Colony and Protectorate.

(*c*) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade £1,076,408, or 71·22 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 69·24 per cent. in 1921; £172,083, or 11·39 per cent., was with the United States, as compared with 11·45 in 1921; Foreign West African Possessions £86,839, or 5·74 per cent.

Of the export trade £941,394, or 68·57 per cent., went to the United Kingdom, £164,570 (11·99 per cent.) to British West African Possessions, £83,085 (6·05 per cent.) to Foreign West African Possessions, and £19,378 (1·41 per cent.) to the United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade, and only 13·29 per cent. of the export, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

(*d*) SHIPPING.

There was a substantial increase of 189,609 tons in the net tonnage of vessels entering at ports in the Colony during the year. In 1922 1,236,932 tons were entered, but it may be noted that the depression in trade is still reflected in shipping. The tonnage entered is less by 226,670 than the tonnage entered in 1913—about one-half of the shortage being accounted for by a falling away in the tonnage of British ships.

As compared with 1921, there was an increase in British shipping of 58,237 tons, while Swedish shipping increased by 68,744 tons, Germany by 44,279 tons and French by 24,443 tons. The Swedish vessels were usually chartered and carried cargo on behalf of British trading companies.

Prior to the outbreak of war the German was the only serious competitor of the British flag on the West African trade routes, and it is interesting to observe how other foreign countries have since entered the lists.

Since 1921, the tonnage of German vessels has increased by more than 100 per cent., and this country now contributes 6·59 per cent. to the total tonnage of vessels entering the Colony.

The percentage of British shipping was 73 as compared with 70 per cent. in 1913 and 80 per cent. in 1921.

The tonnage of American shipping declined—the United States of America now appropriating only 4·95 per cent. of the total tonnage entered.

This is the first year since 1914 that vessels have entered at the port of Mano Salija.

Although no vessels are recorded as entering at Sherbro, a number of vessels called there. Such vessels, however, first entered at Freetown and are included in the returns for that port only.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the years 1921 and 1922 :—

	Vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.	
	1921.		1922.					
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	452	1,027,200	562	1,224,916	110	197,716	—	—
Sherbro ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mano Salija	—	—	18	10,602	18	10,602	—	—
Sulima ..	7	20,123	8	1,414	1	—	—	18,709
Total ..	459	1,047,323	588	1,236,932	129	208,318	—	18,709

	Vessels cleared.				Increase.		Decrease.	
	1921.		1922.					
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	460	1,050,863	559	1,236,180	99	185,317	—	—
Sherbro ..	—	—	1	1,030	1	1,030	—	—
Mano Salija	—	—	8	51	8	51	—	—
Sulima ..	1	2,959	4	33	3	—	—	2,926
Total ..	461	1,053,822	572	1,237,294	111	186,398	—	2,926

IV. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, of which the following are the more important :—

No. 3 of 1922. " The Societe Commerciale de l'Ouest Africain Ordinance," empowering the foreign corporation concerned to hold real property in the Colony.

No. 12 of 1922. " The Non-European Officers' Pensions Ordinance," consolidating and amending the law relating to pensions and gratuities which may be granted to African Civil Servants.

No. 21 of 1922. " The Lunacy Regulation Ordinance," which enables lunatics to be released from the asylum and attended to in private houses under careful supervision.

No. 23 of 1922. " The Police Amendment Ordinance." This amends the law relating to the Police Force, especially as regards the matters relating to disciplinary control.

V. LANDS AND FORESTS.

Agriculture is largely dependent in this country on the existence of forests for the production of crops, and the maintenance of the fertility of the soil; it may indeed some day become dependent on reafforestation for continued and sustained production if the reservation of forest areas is not carried out more rapidly. There are probably few parts of Africa where forestry and agriculture are so interdependent as in Sierra Leone. This is largely due to the peculiar physiography of the country, and to rapid erosion and impoverishment of the soil which follows the removal of the forest cover from the precipitous hillsides, as well as also the influence of the removal of forest on rainfall.

There is evidence that at one time, and at no very distant date, the present more populated parts of Sierra Leone were covered with rain forests. Then the population was comparatively small and the forest felled for the cultivation of crops proportionately so. Consequently, natural regeneration then, to some extent, made good the inroads made in the destruction of the forest. With the advent of civilization and the cessation of tribal wars, there was a gradual increase in the native population, and with it a corresponding demand for forest and more forest for agricultural purposes. Even twenty years ago it was possible to walk from Songo to Moyamba all the way through forest. Now it is all low scrub. This destruction of forest increased so rapidly that in 1908 a forestry expert (Dr. Unwin) was called in, who recommended the formation of a Forestry Department. As a consequence the first forestry officer was appointed in 1910, and in 1912 a Forestry Ordinance was enacted, and the present Forestry Department came into being.

A beginning was then made to create forest reserves, and the main energies of the department have been directed in extending their area. It has been slow work, and the reservation met at first with considerable opposition and difficulties. The total area of forest reserves and areas demarcated for reservation amounts to-day to only 243·7 square miles, which shows an average annual reservation of about 24 square miles since the formation of the department. Now the proportion of forest to open land considered necessary for climatic and economic reasons varies in different countries; in certain tropical countries dependent on agriculture it is put at 50 per cent.; in Sierra Leone (the experts advise) it should not be less than 25 per cent., taking into consideration its peculiar physiography. At present, however, in Sierra Leone the reserved areas form only ·78 per cent. of the total area of the Colony and Protectorate (30,000 square miles). It has been calculated that there is left no more than 1,000 square miles of high or virgin forest, and that even of secondary forest or scrub there is less than 7,000 square miles. These facts emphasise the necessity of reservations being extended in all parts of the country as rapidly as possible.

In view of the close interdependence of the Agricultural and Forest departments, it has been considered advisable to amalgamate them under one head, and to this end an officer of wide experience has been appointed as Commissioner of Lands and Forests. It will be the business of this officer (1) to co-ordinate the work of the two departments; (2) to advise and carry out a practical programme of research and development, the first objects to be aimed at being (*a*) to ascertain thoroughly and completely the behaviour and capacity of the soil of the Colony and Protectorate; (*b*) to study the present native methods of cultivation, and (*c*) to discover how those methods can be improved in the direction of ampler and more economic production.

The organisation contingent on this change is now in progress, and the work of the two former departments of Agriculture and Forestry is being co-ordinated under the new Lands and Forests Department.

The most pressing need is a proper agricultural survey of the Colony and Protectorate, and the production of an agricultural map which will show at a glance the oil palm belt, etc., and what areas are most suitable for particular crops. This work is being taken in hand forthwith.

Cultivation of Rice in Sierra Leone.

In January, 1920, the late Governor suggested to the Secretary of State that it would be expedient to obtain from an expert on irrigation a report on the possibilities of the Protectorate in the matter of the growth of irrigated rice. The Secretary of State was advised that the time was not yet ripe to despatch a highly qualified technical expert to prepare a general scheme for the development of the cultivation of irrigated rice, but it was decided to arrange for some elementary practical instruction to the native rice growers, *i.e.* how to prepare and level the ground, how to dig channels for irrigation and what kinds of rice were suitable for cultivation under various conditions, etc.

In furtherance of this suggestion a native rice cultivator was obtained from India and he arrived in this Colony about the middle of 1921. He first of all made an investigation of the Scarcies area, and subsequently of the Sherbro District.

His report on the former area was issued during the year. He found that the yield of the Scarcies deltaic swamp may be taken as varying from 1,000 lb. to 4,000 lb. husk rice per acre; the average for the tract being about 2,000 lb. This yield is obtained without tilth, without manuring, without weeding, and without artificial irrigation, and finally it has been obtained by continual cropping for over thirty years. The Indian instructor further pointed out that, compared with the average yield of the five chief deltaic tracts of the Madras Presidency, Sierra Leone swamp yields 1,434 pounds of clean rice compared with the following yields in Madras :—

Madras Presidency.		Sierra Leone.	
Godavery delta	1,007 lb.	Scarcies	1,343 lb.
Kristna	1,010 ,,		
Trichinopoly	1,316 ,,		
Madras	1,458 ,,		
Tinnevelly	1,448 ,,		

In other words, in spite of careless and negligent cultivation the yield is as good as that of the good deltaic lands in India, the reason being that there are in Sierra Leone immense natural facilities for procuring good crops.

NATIVE INDUSTRIES.

These are few and only sufficient to meet local requirements ; the most important being the fishing industry. Large quantities of imperfectly dried and cured fish are made on the coast and sent into the interior for sale.

Properly organised, a fishing industry might be made a profitable undertaking.

VI. EDUCATION.

GENERAL.

The Colony with its 128 primary schools and 12 secondary schools is well off, but the Protectorate is yet hardly touched, there being only 89 primary schools, 40 of which being non-aided may be assumed to be of a very modest standard of efficiency. Even in the Colony it must be remembered that by local custom attendance at school is limited, for the most part to four days in the week, though there has been some improvement in this respect recently.

There are at present in the whole of Sierra Leone only ten certificated teachers, though it is true that several masters of the Government Model School are qualified for certificates.

A scheme for reorganising the Government Training Institute has been formulated.

The Government policy in the immediate future will be to concentrate its education expenditure on the training and encouragement of teachers.

The Goverment Educational Institutions in the Colony are the following :—

The Model School, providing both primary and secondary education and training classes for teachers. There are 239 boys and 67 girls on the roll ; 46 boys attending the secondary classes and 10 boys attending the training classes.

The standard of the Model School is good, but the class rooms are congested and additional accommodation is required.

The Madrasas or Mohammedan Schools are five in number and provide elementary education for 454 boys and 186 girls.

The following schedule gives details of all schools in the Colony and Protectorate.

Schools.	State-aided.	Non State-aided.	Number on Roll.	Average attendance.
Government	15	—	1,848	1,387
Church of England	38	13	4,401	2,419
United Brethren in Christ ..	15	22	1,259	910
Roman Catholic	12	3	1,464	1,034
Wesleyan Methodist	22	22	2,797	2,026
United Brethren in Africa ..	2	2	149	109
American Methodist Episcopal	4	2	535	428
Seventh Day Adventist ..	—	14	511	430
Society for the Propogation of the Gospel	1	1	113	41
Countess of Huntingdon ..	2	6	306	193
American Wesleyan	2	—	58	52
Private Schools	—	3	230	162
United Methodist	11	6	857	605
Total	124	94	14,528	9,796

Total number of Schools 218

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

There are eleven secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Model School. Of these, four are assisted schools. The four assisted schools received £497 in capitation grants.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham), the Grammar School, and the Albert Academy for boys, and the Annie Walsh School for girls.

Examinations are held for all schools for the Elementary and Intermediate Examinations: all candidates for the Civil Service Entrance Examinations must have passed the latter examination.

Examinations are also held for the Cambridge Junior and Senior Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year:—

	Entered	*Passed*
Cambridge Junior	35	15
Cambridge Senior	22	7

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated to Durham University, holds examinations for the M.A. and B.A. degrees and Diploma in Theology, and, in 1922, five students received the B.A., two the M.A. degree, and two the Diploma in Theology.

TRADES SCHOOLS.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones' Trades School was opened in 1920; it is partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government Grant.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are:—

(1) The Bo School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs.
(2) The Agricultural College, N'Jala.
(3) Bumpe School.
(4) Baiima School.
(5) Gbangbama School.
(6) Gambia.

The last three are Anglo-vernacular schools.

The Bo School has 168 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

When the school was first started it was laid down that pupils should be returned to their chiefdom, and should on no account be taken into Government service. The number of pupils enrolled at the start was eighty-three, but in a good many instances the chiefs being suspicious of the new experiment did not send their own sons, and a good number had to be sent away as being mentally deficient, or on account of incurably defective vision. By 1911 the number on the roll had increased to 131, but it fell again by the end of 1913 to eighty-three. The rule that ex-pupils were not to be employed in Government service was abrogated in November, 1914, and pupils sat for the Civil Service Entrance Examination for the first time in January, 1917. This was welcomed by the chiefs, who in the early days of the school were probably of the opinion that the education provided at the Bo School was not of much value if the Government was unwilling to accept the services of ex-pupils afterwards. The numbers on the roll at the end of the years succeeding 1913 were as follows :—

1914	100
1915	113
1916	123
1917	140
1918	142
1919	147
1920	160
1921	171
1922	168

Since the beginning of 1917 pupils have been entered for the Civil Service Entrance Examination on six occasions and thirty-seven have passed, on each occasion securing the first place in the examination, once taking the first four, twice more the first three, and twice, in addition, the first and second positions.

Of the 166 boys who have left the school :—

54, as far as is known, are in their chiefdoms, 2 being Paramount Chiefs, and 9 more are reported on as doing very good work ;
13 are in commerce, either with their relations or with European firms in the Protectorate ;
12 are clerks in the Provincial Administration ;
11 are teachers in Government schools ;
8 are in the Agricultural Department ;
7 are in the Forestry Department ;
3 are in the Roads Department ;
3 are District Vaccinators ;
2 are Government Interpreters ;
1 is in the Signaller's Section of the West African Regiment, and
8 have died.

Of the remaining forty-four (of whom thirty-eight had left before the end of 1912) the Principal has not been able to secure any reliable account.

N'Jala Agricultural College is a boarding school for the training of vernacular school teachers, and has 64 boys on the roll. It is intended to produce teachers with a practical knowledge of agriculture. At present the school is restricted to Mendi pupils.

The Bumpe School had an average attendance of 70 boys, the Baiima School 26.

So far nothing has been done by the Government for the education of girls in the Protectorate.

VII. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire early in 1920 and all records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new hospital, which was nearing completion by the end of 1921, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

A portion of the new hospital was completed in 1922 consisting of 3 blocks of 2 wards each, operating theatre, kitchen, laundry, fumigating block and staff latrine and bath block. Some of the wards were opened to receive patients on the 9th January, the last on the 8th August.

In addition to the above the new hospital was planned to comprise three more blocks for Africans, one for Europeans, quarters for the resident surgeon and nursing sisters, offices and stores. It is unlikely that any further building will be carried out until the finances of the Colony improve.

Patients admitted to the Colonial Hospital numbered 1,269, and there were 120 deaths; 89 operations were performed. There were 57 patients in hospital at the end of the year. The total number treated, including the 13 who remained at the end of 1921, was 1,282.

At the Colonial Hospital 10,573 out-patients were treated, 2,282 at the Cline Town Dispensary, and 3,235 at the Kissy Dispensary.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, there were 90 inmates on 31st December, 1921, 44 were admitted during the year, 17 were discharged and 6 died, leaving 101 inmates on 31st December, 1922.

The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

The following are the statistics of the Infirmaries:—

	Female.	Male.	Total.
Under treatment on Dec. 31, 1921 ..	31	30	61
Admitted during year	198	141	339
Discharged	146	111	257
Died	55	22	77
In hospital Dec. 31, 1922	28	38	66

At the Leper Asylum there were two patients at the beginning of the year; there were three admissions and one death.

One case of smallpox and 37 of chicken-pox were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, of which one chicken-pox case died from senility.

Nursing Home. There were 126 admissions, 37 being Government officials; 55 were cases of malaria and 4 cases of blackwater fever. One official and six non-officials died.

(*b*) POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits numbered 6,432 and amounted to £20,633 19*s*. 10*d*., shewing a decrease of 104 in number and of £5,375 11*s*. 7*d*. in value when compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 4,341 and amounted to £29,988 14*s*. 0*d*., showing decreases of 442 in number and £4,669 17*s*. 0*d*. in value in comparison with the figures for 1921.

The average value of each deposit was £3 4*s*. 2*d*. and of each withdrawal £6 18*s*. 2*d*., as against £3 19*s*. 7*d*. and £7 4*s*. 11*d*. in the previous year.

During the year 930 accounts were opened and 1,213 were closed, shewing a net decrease of 283. At the end of the year the names of 5,106 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £69,460 3*s*. 10½*d*. The average value of each account was, at the close of the year, £13 12*s*. 1*d*.

The total sum invested is £61,909 19*s*. 10*d*. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,634 0*s*. 9*d*. The interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,645 11*s*. 0*d*.

(*c*) PORT AND MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Sherbro River. In view of the number of cases of ships stranding in the Sherbro River during 1921, and the consequent complaints of the shipping companies, the Harbour Master visited the river in August, 1921. It was found that the majority of the buoys were seriously out of their charted positions, and that the buoys generally were much in need of overhauling. It was decided that, for safe navigation, more buoys were necessary in the lower reaches of the river. All the original buoys, except one, have since been brought to Freetown, thoroughly overhauled and relaid in their proper positions, and three additional buoys have been laid down.

In January, 1922, a careful survey was made of the crossing over the flats at Bobs Island and a channel having a least depth of 16 ft. at low water ordinary springs (20 ft. at half tide) was found. During April a survey was made of the narrow channel between Long Island and Bomplake Point. Considerable alteration was found to have taken place in the channel. Temporary marks were placed indicating the new channel in which a least depth of 19 ft. at low water ordinary springs (22½ ft. at high tide) was found. These two places, Bobs Island and Bomplake Channel, constitute the shoalest parts of the channel, and the river, therefore, may be considered navigable with safety for vessels drawing up to 21 ft. This makes a big difference to the shipping facilities of the port, not only on account of the saving distance for lighterage, but because the new anchorage is much more sheltered than the anchorage at Jamaica where during the rainy seson there is often a considerable sea.

Scarcies River. In November, 1922, a survey of the approaches of the Scarcies River was commenced, and considerable difference was found to have taken place not only in the depth of water and position of banks but also in the contour of the neighbouring islands.

The approaches to the rivers have since been buoyed and the navigation of the entrance is now quite simple.

VIII. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(*a*) POLICE.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, Police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1922 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, three European Inspectors, two African Sub-Inspectors and 318 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, as compared with a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, five European Inspectors and 318 Non-Commissioned Officers and men in 1921.

The health of the Force was good.

The following table shows the cases reported and arrests made in 1921 and 1922 :—

Year.	Cases reported.	Arrests made.	Convictions.	Percentage convictions to arrests.
1921	1,879	1,707	1,317	77·1%
1922	2,169	2,194	1,732	78·9%

The following is a comparative statement of the serious crimes reported during the two years :—

	1921	1922
Murder	1	1
House-breaking	15	11
Burglary	10	10
Shop-breaking	31	18
Rape	4	3
Larceny	664	570
Receiving	50	38

(*b*) Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the Town Council. No serious fire occurred during the year.

(*c*) Prisons.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1921 and 1922:—

	1921	1922
Males	1,012	1,091
Females	8	12
Juveniles	23	25

The increase is due to the large number convicted for gambling, the actual figures being 88 for 1922, as against 13 in the previous year.

The high standard of health maintained during recent years was again marred by a serious outbreak of beri-beri, and a special committee has been appointed to attempt to trace the cause. There were 290 admissions to hospital during the year and 12 deaths.

In the Protectorate prisons 1,039 persons were committed to prison in 1922, as compared with 1,019 in 1921, the daily average for the year being 189.

(*d*) Criminal Statistics.

In the Supreme Court of the Colony 90 persons were convicted—20 for larceny and 50 for other offences against property, as compared with 96 in 1921, of which 49 were for offences against property.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate 43 persons were convicted, of which 16 were for larceny and 2 for other offences against property, as compared with 23 in 1921, of which 8 were offences against property.

In the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 2,116 persons were convicted summarily, 523 being for larceny and 1,172 for offences against revenue laws and kindred laws, as compared with 1,806 convictions in 1921, 549 for larceny and 983 for offences against revenue laws.

In the District Commissioner's Court at Waterloo there were 154 convictions, 70 being for larceny.

In the Courts of the Provincial Commissioners of the Protectorate 1,212 persons were convicted.

IX. VITAL STATISTICS, Etc.

(*a*) European Population.

The number of European (including American) residents during 1922 in the Colony and Protectorate was :--

Officials	209
Non-Officials	701*
Military	292†

* No figures for non-officials for 1922 available ; 1921 figures are given.
† Including wives of officers and men of other ranks.

The average number of official residents was 109, as compared with 144 in 1921, and 5 were invalided during the year. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans from climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

Years.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Total.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatc.i	Non-Climatic.	Climatic	Non-Climatic	Clim.	Non-Clim.	
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ..	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ..	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ..	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921 ..	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922† ..	1	1	5	4	1	1	13

* Influenza Epidemic.
† (1922) 3 Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour apart from above ; all from non-climatic causes.

(*b*) Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infantile Mortality Rate.

	Population 1921 Census.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Freetown	44,142	16·9 per 1,000	26·3 per 1,000	418
Colony other than Freetown.	41,021	20·2 per 1,000	21·2 per 1,000	217

Owing to non-registration of many births the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the Infantile Mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it really is. According to the 1921 Census the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively.

This is an additional factor in producing a low birth-rate.

(*c*) SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Quarantine was declared against ports in Nigeria, the Gold Coast and the Ivory Coast owing to yellow fever. One case of smallpox was reported in Freetown and there were three cases at York, a village on the Coast of the colony. In the Protectorate there were the usual sporadic cases or small outbreaks but nothing in the nature of an epidemic.

(*d*) RECORD OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

	1922.	1921.	1920.
Number vaccinated	26,448	35,989	26,672
,, successful	9,795	10,917	9,819
,, unsuccessful	6,302	6,794	5,430
,, not inspected	10,351	18,278	11,423

The falling-off in the number of vaccinations as compared with 1921 is due to the fact that in the latter year there was an outbreak of smallpox in Freetown, as a result of which house-to-house vaccination was carried out on a large scale.

Twenty-five cases of anthrax in cattle were reported in Freetown and dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Superintendent of Freetown Water Works reports that there was no shortage of water during the year. The average daily consumption was 404,128 gallons, or about 9·2 gallons per head of the population.

The number of mosquito larvae prosecutions in the Freetown Police Court was 373, as compared with 482 in 1921.

Ten thousand, two hundred and sixteen rats were purchased and destroyed by the Sanitary Department, being paid for at the rate of 2d. each.

(*e*) CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This constitutes the period of the south west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August and September are the months of heaviest rainfall.

The highest rainfall is recorded on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 feet above sea level, for the last 40 years are now available, and the following table for each of the last four decennia shews very markedly the decrease in the rainfall which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands.

Average Rainfall, Freetown

(*Tower Hill*).

Period.	Average Rainfall.
1882–1891	166·07
1892–1901	165·15
1902–1911	156·00
1912–1921	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 in. in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 in. in 1914.

In December and January Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east Trades, and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan" blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind and is accompanied by a thick haze probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in 1922 (150 in.) was the highest recorded since 1906, but only slightly more than the average for 40 years.

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 5·15 in. on 26th July. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 65 deg. on 13th December; highest 95deg. on 9th and 16th March.

(*f*) CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis or golf. There are a considerable number of tennis courts, and any European who wishes to play can get opportunities of doing so. The country is hilly and cycling is in consequence laborious, and horses do not thrive, but for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as good English meat, but it compares favourably with much of the foreign frozen meat sold in England, and when properly cooked is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

The climate is tropical and therefore hot—that is, the shade temperature rarely falls below 70 deg. On the other hand the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 deg. and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. It is not always damp—speaking generally there are four months very dry when no rain or only a negligible quantity falls, and four months of varying conditions with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country.

(*g*) POPULATION (COLONY AND PROTECTORATE).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report discloses that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) has increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902–1911 was apparently 37 per cent., but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1901–1911 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142. A partial explanation appears to be that there have been large immigrations from other British Colonies and from other parts of West Africa, thus :—

	1911	1921
Of the inhabitants of Freetown those that were born in West Africa, other than Sierra Leone, numbered	3,463	6,437
Those that were born in other British Colonies	736	2,029

The Census shows that the actual "Creole" population (so called) in the Colony has declined from 31,078 in 1911 to 28,222 in 1921. The number of "Creoles" in the Protectorate has increased since 1911 by 891, but even making allowance for this exodus from the Colony, and possibly for a certain amount of emigration to other countries, there seems to be little doubt that the " Colony Africans " are decreasing in numbers. This decrease appears to have been also a feature of the decade 1901–1911. No satisfactory explanation has been offered for this decrease.

Natives in Freetown returning themselves as " Protectorate-born " have risen from 10,000 to 16,000 in 1921. The balance (4,000) of this Freetown increase would appear, as stated, to have come from other parts of West Africa or from other British Colonies.

The large increase of population in Freetown has, unfortunately, been accompanied by a decrease rather than an increase in the number of houses, which have declined from 7,468 in 1911 to 6,512 in 1921. It must be inferred, therefore, that housing conditions are, in general, more congested to-day than they were ten years ago ; it would also clearly be dangerous to assume that the wealth of Freetown has increased *pari passu* with its population. During the decade, however, there has been a considerable advance in the size and style of buildings erected by the mercantile and banking community, and the reports of the City Council show that the annual rateable value of the city has risen by about 50 per cent.

An increasingly large proportion of the male population of the Colony makes its living by petty trade, but while the number of males so engaged has risen from 1,936 in 1911 to 5,233 in 1921, the number of female traders and hawkers, 12,522, is only resonably in excess of the 1911 figure, 11,689. This seems to point to the fact that many of the Protectorate natives who have added themselves to the Colony population have done so because they can there eke out a living by this easy method, which compares favourably in their eyes with the laborious toil which they would have to undergo in their ancestral farm country.

The number of commercial agents and employees in the Colony has risen from 130 to 235 and in the Protectorate from 51 to 108, satisfactory indication of the commercial development of Sierra Leone. The number of European Missionaries has increased in even larger proportions, viz., from 21 to 52 in the Colony and from 24 to 42 in the Protectorate. In the Colony the proportion of Christians to population (40,389 out of 85,136) is large.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. A feature of the Protectorate figures is the increase in the number of Syrians viz., from 91 to 386. Altogether there are now 563 Syrians in the Colony and Protectorate, an increase of nearly 300 during the decade.

The preponderance of females in the Protectorate, which was a notable feature of the Census of 1911, is again noticeable in the present Census, the figures being 599,199 women and 421,173 men. It must be understood, however, that the relative proportion of men, women and children in the Protectorate has been based on a very rough and ready calculation, viz., the figures in a small representative area in each district, and there are wide variations in the relative proportions. In the Colony there is a large preponderance of males, the figures for the African population being males 47,623, and females 36,431.

The totals from which the grand total of the population of the Protectorate is arrived at are based on the number of houses in each district, and on an index figure estimated separately for each district which gives the average number of persons per house. This index figure varies remarkably not only as between the Provinces but even in the several districts of a Province; thus it varies from 3·4 in the Bonthe district of the Southern Province to 9 in the Karene district of the Northern Province. Again, in three of the four districts of the Southern Province the index figure is under 4, but in the fourth district, Sumbuyah, the figure is 7·2. This, to a certain extent, is due to tribal customs. Thus, as a rule, Krim houses in the Southern Province are very small and poorly built, and a family may occupy several of them. Timnes and Mendes go in for finer houses and more people live in a single house. It is very common in the Protectorate for one family to occupy several houses, father, mother and one or two babies in one house; children and grandmother in another, grown up sons in a third, domestics in a fourth and so on. Generally it may be accepted that the average index figure, viz., 5·9, represents a close approximation to the average index number of inhabitants per house in the Protectorate. Inasmuch, therefore, as the figure given as the total number of houses, 239,148, is taken from the house tax returns, and may be accepted as fairly accurate, it can be reasonably deduced that the figure 1,450,903 given as the total population of the Protectorate is approximately correct.

It is interesting to note that the number of houses in the Protectorate has increased from 204,938 in 1911 to 239,148 in 1921, i.e., by over 15 per cent.

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

(*a*) POSTAL.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 43. Money Order business was transacted at 18 offices and Postal Order business at 34.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,478,964 as compared with 1,541,385 in 1921. This total was made up as follows :—

	Letters, Postcards, and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured	Ordinary	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	338,225	11,060	14,381	1,967
Despatched to United Kingdom	170,142	20,943	2,276	147
Received from West African Colonies	116,645	17,959	4,037	18
Despatched to West African Colonies	124,256	14,059	1,825	40
Internal	601,929	29,001	10,054	—

The Money Order transactions numbered 5,888 and amounted to £53,700, showing a decrease of 576 in number and £30,841 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

Money Orders.	1922.		1921.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom..	368	1,959	376	2,980
Despatched to United Kingdom..	2,025	13,964	1,818	15,280
Received from West African Colonies	746	9,055	1,263	23,312
Despatched to West African Colonies	390	3,718	383	4,729
Inland	2,359	23,004	2,624	38,240
Total	5,888	53,700	6,464	84,541

Postal Orders issued numbered 43,473 and amounted to £30,451, as compared with 38,149 to the value of £27,641 in 1921. 36,750 Orders, amounting to £27,244 were paid ; an increase of 2,508 in number and £895 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The postal revenue totalled £13,034, showing a decrease of £705 as compared with 1921. The customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £8,677, and stamps to the value of £3,580 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £17,328, which shows an increase of £508 when compared with the figures of 1921.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles from Freetown). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano on the railway there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengema to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a boat service, and from Sengema there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles).

From Songo Town (on the railway) there is a telephone to Port Lokko.

The revenue from telegrams was £4,398, as compared with £4,977 in 1921.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and sent through the office in Freetown of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown with 85 subscribers, of which 28 are Government offices and quarters, 19 are railway offices, and 38 private subscribers.

The telephone revenue in 1922 amounted to £1,184, and the maintenance cost £616.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

(*a*) RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½	Main Line. Water Street to Pendembu.
104	Branch Line. Boia to Kamabai.
5½	Hill Station Line.
1	Branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.
338	

Approximately 17 miles of sidings at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1922, was £1,695,361.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1921 and 1922:—

	1913.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Gross Revenue	168,418	161,768	171,986
Expenditure	90,155	243,484	195,052

	1913.	1921.	1922.
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ..	114·11	96·25	91·10
Working expenses per train-mile ..	61·09	132·21	103·32
Passengers carried	438,388	617,241	531,493

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 46 engines, 98 coaching vehicles, and 389 goods vehicles, including 39 service vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 51,881 tons, as compared with 47,053 in 1921 and 62,084 in 1913.

An interesting and successful experiment was made in July, 1922, when Third Class Passenger Fares were reduced by 33⅓ per cent., i.e., from 1½*d*. to 1*d*. a mile. The soundness of this decision is emphasised in a very marked manner by the following table, which gives the total number of Third Class passengers (excluding Government passengers) and the total revenue from that source for the months of June, July, August and September, 1922. Return tickets are counted as two journeys.

Month.	Number of Passengers.	Revenue.	
		£	
June	29,271	1,740	Before reduction.
July	37,808	1,921	After reduction.
August	40,352	2,205	,,
September	40,564	2,017	,,

The reduction in fares has stimulated long distance travelling in a very marked manner, and the revenue actually improved compared with the three months before the change.

(*b*) ROADS.

The following table gives the particulars of the first-class motor roads in the Protectorate :—

Road.	Mileage.	Earth-Works completed.	Permanent Bridges.	Temporary Bridges for Motors.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Kumrabai-Pujehun ..	107	97	35	38
Boadgibu-Blama-Panguma	63	63	54	19
Segbwema-Bandajuma ..	26	22	5	21
Pendembu-Kailahun-Mafindo	24	24	18	6
Baiima-Malema	20	14	Nil	6
Moyamba-Sembehun ..	19	19	18	Nil
Pujehun-Sumbuyah ..	32	13	Nil	Nil
Total	291	252	120	90

It has been reckoned that a first-class road with permanent bridges costs about £800 a mile to construct. Experiments are being made with bridges of specially selected sawn timbers. It is estimated that such bridges should last for four or five years, and that they should cost only about one-tenth of the cost of concrete bridges.

(*c*) WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light-draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought both to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways, and steps are being taken to open them up further.

XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

The programme of the Public Works Department was cut down to a minimum owing to the financial state of the Colony, and only road construction and maintenance and necessary works of sanitation in Freetown were undertaken.

XIII. FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL.

The annual value of rateable hereditaments in Freetown has risen from £56,480 in 1916–1918 to £81,970 in 1921–1922.

XIV. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is now divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Northern and Central Provinces are each sub-divided into four Districts, and the Southern Province into five, under District Commissioners.

The area of each District is as follows:—

	Square miles.
Port Lokko	2,160
Karene	2,940
Bombali	3,300
Koinadugu	5,450
Moyamba	1,540
Konno	2,400
Kennema	2,190
Pendembu	1,440
Gbangbama	1,620
Sumbuya	1,030
Pujehun	1,140
Mano River	890
Bonthe	880
	26,980

The Protectorate is profoundly tranquil and the people, though for the most part poor, are contented.

The total European Staff consists of only twenty-seven European Officers, of whom usually five or six are on leave. The remaining twenty-two officers administer a Colony embracing an area of 26,980 square miles; in other words, on an average each officer is in charge of some 1,230 miles. To help him he has, may be, about a dozen Court Messengers.

In July, 1922, a new District called the Mano River District was created in the Southern Province. This consists of the following Chiefdoms: Koya, Tunkia, Nomo, Makpelli, Soro and Gbemma, which, hitherto, had been included in the Pujehun District.

XV. IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

Reports on several materials forwarded by Government officers were furnished to the Government of Sierra Leone during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented, when necessary, by reference to commercial experts. In addition, information relating to Sierra Leone products was supplied to enquirers.

Brush-making Fibre from the Oil Palm. A specimen brush made from this fibre (see Reports for 1920 and 1921) was received during the year, together with a further quantity of the fibre. On immersion in water the fibre became very soft, and it was evident that such material would be useless for the manufacture of scrubbing brushes. This opinion was confirmed by brushmakers to whom the fibre was submitted, who stated that it was too soft and generally quite unsuitable for their purposes.

Leaf fibre of the Oil Palm. Information was furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the preparation and probable uses of the leaf fibre of the oil palm.

Okra Fibre. This fibre, which was forwarded to the Imperial Institute in order to ascertain its quality and current value, was found to have been insufficiently prepared, a large amount of gummy matter being present. Previous investigations at the Imperial Institute have shown that okra fibre, if properly retted and prepared, should be readily saleable in competition with jute, but it is doubtful whether, in the condition of this sample, it could be profitably shipped to the United Kingdom.

Minerals. A specimen of iron ore was of fair quality but contained too much phosphorous to be suitable for use in the production of high-grade nonphosphoric pig iron. Similar ore would have realised about 17*s.* per ton c.i.f. United Kingdom ports at the time of the report (November, 1922).

Three other mineral specimens, forwarded with the iron ore, were of no commercial interest.

Palm Oil Machinery. An enquiry was received from the Government of the Colony for a simple and inexpensive machine for the preparation of palm oil. A suitable machine was selected after inspection by representatives of the Imperial Institute, and a practical trial was arranged in the presence of the Commissioner of Lands and Forests, then in the United Kingdom. As a result of this demonstration, a machine was ordered for trial in Sierra Leone and was duly despatched through the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

" Gorli " Seed (*Oncoba echinata*). In connection with the investigation carried out at the Imperial Institute on the constitutents of " Gorli " seed, a request was received for a supply of these seeds for use for pharmacological and biological research. A quantity of the seed has been asked for, and is being sent to the Imperial Institute by the Lands and Forests Department.

Miscellaneous. The following are the subjects of other enquiries relating to Sierra Leone dealt with during the period under review.

Fisheries ; Botanical identity of plant yielding chewing sticks ; Names of trading firms in Sierra Leone.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following articles relating to subjects of special interest to Sierra Leone were published in the " Bulletin of the Imperial Institute " for 1922 : —

Distillation Products of West African Woods.
Efwatakala Grass as a Fodder.
Utilisation of Palm Oil as a Motor Fuel.
The Utilisation of Lime Seeds.

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

During the year the collection of vegetable products, native pottery, etc., was in course of rearrangement with a view to a more effective display, but the collection requires additional exhibits in order to make the Court representative of the resources of the country and recent developments.

The statistical diagram has been revised and brought up to date.

New exhibits comprise a section of the fruit of *Telfaria pedata*, timber of *Polvadoa Elliotti*, and a native chief's gala whip and charm.

Specimens of Sierra Leone products have been supplied to schools.

W. B. STANLEY.
Acting Colonial Secretary.

29th May, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*		*Year.*
1129	St. Helena		1921
1130	Fiji		,,
1131	Basutoland		1921–1922
1132	Bermuda		1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate		1921–1922
1134	Barbados		,,
1135	Trinidad		1921
1136	British Honduras		,,
1137	Ceylon		,,
1138	Swaziland		,,
1139	Hongkong		,,
1140	Straits Settlements		,,
1141	St. Lucia		,,
1142	Ashanti		,,
1143	Jamaica		,,
1144	Falkland Islands		1920
1145	Bahamas		1921–1922
1146	Seychelles		1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands		,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate		1921–1922
1149	Mauritius		1921
1150	Sierra Leone		,,
1151	Uganda		,,
1152	Somaliland		,,
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	(April-December)	,,
1154	Gold Coast		,,
1155	Nigeria		1922
1156	Nyasaland		1921
1157	Falkland Islands		,,
1158	Weihaiwei		1922
1159	Cyprus		,,
1160	Gambia		,,
1161	New Hebrides		1921 and 1922
1162	Nyasaland		1922
1163	Zanzibar		,,
1164	St. Helena		,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1219.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1165.)

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923.*

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

(a) *Geographical.*

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of west longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south, and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, adjacent to Sherbro, as it is a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

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* **A Map will be found in the Report for 1921, No. 1150.**

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account, during the Great War, Freetown Harbour was of considerable importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is, on the whole, well laid out with straight and often broad streets; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past ten years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past five years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time over 150 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is 44,142 (1921 Census).

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. Attempts are, however, being made both in the Northern and in the Southern Provinces to render certain of the rivers navigable for trade purposes for a greater proportion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel with Turner's Peninsula, is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards Sherbro Island even in the dry season, and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain parts on the Sewa and Wanje Rivers.

The nature of the country also varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south merges with the more open thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate has been surveyed by a geologist, who was unable to detect the presence of any minerals of commercial value in deposits of sufficient magnitude to be worth exploiting.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57·48 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is somewhat denser in the Central and Southern Provinces than it is in the Northern.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, is 1,456,148, and is composed of the following tribes :—

Northern Province...	Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos, Limbas, Lokkos, and Temnes, with some Mandingoes, Fulahs, and Kissis.
Central Province ...	Konnos, Kissis and Mendes, with some Bandis and Golas.
Southern Province...	Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the biggest of the Protectorate tribes.

(b) *Historical.*

Sierra Leone has been known to historians for many centuries, but its actual settlement as a British Colony was due to the awakening of the conscience of England in the matter of her attitude towards the extensive slave trade carried on up and down the West African coast during the eighteenth century.

Led by William Wilberforce, England determined upon the abolition of this trade, and, in order to make suitable provision primarily for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers, acquired a strip o land on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site, in May, 1787, the first colonists were landed and began the work—thereafter to be frequently threatened with total failure—of building up the Colony of Sierra Leone. The original grant made by the local chief, King Tom, was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembana and the country was ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs, and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 " King " Farina and " King " Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies, and in the following year the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed.

It was not many years before the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullom—were ceded to the Crown; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. Thereafter the Government of the Colony began to make its weight increasingly felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. In 1852 the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony.

From 1866 to 1874 Sierra Leone was officially the senior West African Colony and the headquarters of the "West African Settlements." The Governor-in-Chief resided at Freetown and administered not only the Colony of Sierra Leone but those of the Gold Coast, Lagos and the Gambia in addition.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate, divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate; this broke out in the Karene District when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the House Tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. Early in the following year, however, the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful.

I. GENERAL.

The improved stability of the European market, with its consequent quickening of local trade, enabled Sierra Leone to gather in 1923 some of the first-fruits of that policy of close administration, rigid economy, and active development of the natural resources of the country, which the acute financial depression of the immediately preceding years had rendered imperative.

In marked contrast to the years 1921 and 1922, when circumstances compelled the gradual increase of all forms of indirect taxation up to a point beyond which any further increase would threaten the trade of the Colony with total destruction, and the ruthless cutting down of personnel as well as of every item of unnecessary (and in some cases of necessary) expenditure, the circumstances of the year 1923 enabled the Government to contemplate action directed towards a partial relief of the burden of taxation imposed in previous years, and some resumption of those activities demanding expenditure that in the preceding years could not legitimately have been borne. Thus, in November, 1923, the export duties on palm oil and gum copal were abolished, while in the following month the *ad valorem* import duties on all kinds of foodstuffs were reduced from 25 per cent. to 12½ per cent. Thus, too, it was found possible to intensify the constructive policy of the Agricultural Department by the appointment of additional skilled personnel and to take in hand certain public works of paramount importance.

An unmistakable index to the greatly improved position of the Colony, as well as to the rapidity of its resurgence from the slough of despond into which it had been thrust, may be found in the fact that whereas on the 1st January, 1923, the Colony's cash account with the Crown Agents was overdrawn to the extent of £69,000, on the 31st December the Colony was in credit to the extent of £83,000 on the same account.

It is significant too that whereas the average price paid in the European market throughout the year for palm kernels was only moderately good, the value of the actual total export of kernels from Sierra Leone was greater in 1923 than in any other year in the history of the Colony.

In fine, although the financial state of the Colony still demands strict economy and the closest supervision, there is abundant ground for believing that the worst of its financial troubles have been for the present overcome, and that, given this economy and supervision, there is no reason to fear that Sierra Leone is in any immediate danger of falling back into that state of economic depression from which she has happily made so rapid a recovery.

The Governor was absent from the Colony on leave between the 18th April and the 3rd October; during this period the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. T. Furley, C.M.G., O.B.E.

II. FINANCIAL.

(*a*) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £845,319, as compared with £786,540 in 1922, and exceeded the original Estimate by £81,794.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1922 and 1923.

	1913.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Customs	317,643	454,383	512,339
Light Dues	6,938	8,173	9,641
Licences and Internal Revenue	79,745	73,897	14,100
*House Tax Receipts	—	—	59,730
Fees of Court..	17,853	23,474	22,041
Post Office	14,487	13,034	12,912
Rents	417	761	676
Interest	12,324	5,922	6,558
Miscellaneous..	1,821	34,971	18,025
Railway	167,305	171,986	189,297
Land Sales	—	9	—
Total	£618,383	£786,540	£845,319

The considerable increase of Customs revenue is attributable to the general improvement in the market prices of the Colony's exports. Shipments of palm kernels were heavier than had been anticipated, and the good prices obtained were reflected in an increase in the *ad valorem* and specific import duties (*vide* "Trade").

The increase under "Miscellaneous Receipts" is due to the payment to the Colony of a sum of £13,325 from the West African Currency Board (*vide* "Currency" infra).

The increase under "Railway" is an index of enhanced trade prosperity.

(*b*) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £727,661, compared with £816,977 in 1922, and was less than the original estimate by £29,022.

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* Previously shown under "Licences and Internal Revenue."

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1922 and 1923.

	1913.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	61,574	86,131	83,413
Pensions	8,228	43,396	38,946
Governor and Legislature ..	6,443	6,805	7,221
Colonial Secretary's Department	8,190	14,266	17,174
Provincial Administration ..	33,877	55,539	55,245
Treasury	4,813	8,521	9,005
Customs Department	14,683	17,954	19,151
Audit	3,051	3,709	4,001
Port and Marine Department ..	3,289	3,196	3,197
Legal Departments	11,670	14,483	12,921
Civil Police	10,082	22,817	22,167
Prisons	8,633	18,213	14,628
Medical Department	30,048	43,506	41,696
Sanitary	8,951	19,304	19,315
Education	13,296	24,617	22,447
Post Office	12,124	17,328	17,546
West African Frontier Force ..	40,638	34,542	36,377
Railway Department	146,060	195,598	154,705
Agricultural ,, ...	2,842	7,011	—
Forestry ,, ...	3,584	8,611	—
*Lands and Forests	—	—	15,953
Miscellaneous Services	23,914	92,025	25,630
Protectorate Roads Department (now under P.W.D.)	7,558	—	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads)	13,622	24,767	23,095
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads)	18,897	30,851	39,970
Public Works Extraordinary ..	58,856	22,751	15,918
(Extraordinary Works, Railway	—	—	29,903)
Survey of Colony and Protectorate	228	—	—
Railway Construction	48,999	—	—
Freetown Water Works.. ..	6,657	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special)	11,633	—	—
War Services (Special)	—	—	—
Depreciation of Investments ..	—	1,000	—
Total	£622,439	£816,977	£727,661

(*c*) LOAN EXPENDITURE.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 (raised before the War) amounted to £942,827. Of this £494,565 was spent on the redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,652 on Railway extension, £107,514 on Freetown Harbour Works and £4,130 on Roads Construction, leaving a balance unexpended of £10,965.

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* Previously shown under "Agricultural" and "Forestry."

(*d*) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £227,454.

The principal items are :—	£	£
Railway Stores	36,173	
Public Works Stores	16,087	
		52,560
Surplus Funds (invested) ...		69,847
Cash Balance—Treasurer's Account	26,889	
Railway Open Line Account ...	5,905	
		32,794

On 31st December, 1923, the market value of the securities held in respect of Surplus Funds invested was £52,471.

(*e*) PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1923, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £257,392 8*s*. 5*d*.

(*f*) CURRENCY.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values : £5, £1 and 10*s*.

The stock of West African alloy coin at the beginning of the year was £29,500. This coin was issued to the two banks as required.

From the West African Currency Board £97,475 was received, and £1,800 was returned to the Currency Board's stocks by the banks during the year. £139,025 remained on hand at the end of the year.

The face value of the West African currency notes held at the beginning of the year was £181,900. During the year notes to the value of £50,000 were received from the Currency Board and sums representing £163,456 were returned to Currency Board's stock by the banks. Of these latter, notes to the value of £88,890 were destroyed. During the year the issues to the banks amounted to £25,525, and the balance on hand at the close of the year represented a face value of £230,991.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African currency notes issued in the other Colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the redemption of large sums in excess of the face value of amounts issued, as also for the fact that the value of notes actually in circulation at the end of the year is calculated at a minus sum of £464,665. A sum of £13,325 was received from the Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income on investments during the year.

(*g*) BANKING.

There are two banks—the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

(*a*) IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1923 was £1,949,981, as compared with £1,511,496 in 1922.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1922 and 1923.

	1913.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,291,982	1,229,210	1,421,928
Government Imports	146,053	112,905	238,216
Specie	312,268	169,381	289,837
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,511,496	£1,949,981

	1913.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	354,488	380,890	356,905
Raw articles and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	103,680	144,073	166,526
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	780,546	1,136,110
Miscellaneous	418	36,606	603
Specie	312,268	169,381	289,837
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,511,496	£1,949,981

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was:—

	£
1913	173,565
1922	43,526
1923	46,387

The value of spirits imported, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below:—

	Per cent.
1913	5·18
1914	3·26
1915	4·47
1916	4·09
1917	3·57
1918	4·27
1919	2·83
1920	2·05
1921	2·18
1922	2·88
1923	1·54

Cotton goods imported increased in volume and in value from £412,756 in 1922 to £469,811, an increase of £47,055.

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 35,898 tons, valued at £101,319, as against 29,604 tons, valued at £76,134, in 1922.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 6,406 tons, at a cost of £18,791.

The tables given below show that, generally speaking, there is marked revival in cotton piece-goods, while "other" cottons have fallen away. The value of cotton pieces imported in 1922 and 1923 was greater than in any of the pre-war years.

Cotton Piece-Goods.

Year.	Quantity Yards.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
		£	£	Per cent.
1912	14,538,851	231,676	22,014	10
1913	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10–12
1916	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15–20–25
1922	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25

Other Cotton Goods.

Year.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
	£	£	Per cent.
1912	150,068	13,945	10
1913	158,196	14,510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10–12
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,262	15–20–25
1922	56,348	12,696	25
1923	66,520	20,108	25

(*b*) EXPORTS.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £1,607,225, as compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,372,862 in 1922. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel; such value includes export duty, cost of packages and all charges incidental to shipment. In reports previous to that for 1922 export duty was not included in such values.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony	1,376,603	1,069,803	1,347,115
Coal	—	82,065	104,794
Other British and Foreign Produce Manufactures ..	113,685	92,298	95,896
Specie	240,964	128,696	54,420
Total	£1,731,352	£1,372,862	£1,607,225

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports :—

	1922.	1923.
Ginger (cwt.)	26,605	27,905
Hides (cwt.)	132	202
Kola Nuts (lb.)	6,044,926	5,698,703
Palm Kernels (tons)	49,029	59,545
Palm Oil	2,076	3,346
Pepper	278,516	328,188
Piassava	1,355	1,620
Rice (bushels)	1,375	259

The trade figures for the year are given in the following table :—

Year.	Commercial Imports.	Exports Produce of Colony.	Excess of Exports over Imports.	Excess of Imports over Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1913	1,291,982	1,376,603	84,621	—
1919	1,980,382	1,806,736	—	173,646
1920	3,175,835	2,747,743	—	928,092
1921	1,335,885	1,080,588	—	255,297
1922	1,229,210	1,069,803	—	159,407
1923	1,421,928	1,347,116	—	74,812

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 5,698,703 lb., valued at £187,476, as compared with 6,044,926 lb., valued at £206,820 in 1922.

This decrease is almost entirely due to the competition of Grand Bassam, where the development of the kola has been rapid and has been assisted by a heavy preferential tariff in French Senegal, which has prejudiced the sales of Sierra Leone kola, although the latter is of superior quality and flavour.

The kola exports for the years 1912-21 raised in value between 20 and 30 per cent. of the total of the Colony's exports, but have now dropped to 14 per cent., and the actual price obtained (£4 6*s*. per measure of 176 lb.) is the lowest recorded for 14 years.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 59,545 tons, being an increase of 10,516 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £968,797, an increase of £246,394 over the 1922 figure. This quantity constitutes a record in the annual export of palm kernels from this Colony. The improvement in the quality of kernels was fully maintained and local prices were high. The United Kingdom absorbed 97 per cent. of the kernels exported, the remainder going to Germany. In 1913 Germany took 87·5 per cent. and the United Kingdom 12·5. Not only was the average Liverpool price of kernels in 1923 (£18 15*s*.) inferior to the average of 1912 (£19 16*s*. 8*d*.) and 1913 (£23 6*s*.), but the pound sterling has lost much of its purchasing power, and the financial needs of the Government have necessitated the imposition of an export duty of £1 a ton. It might be expected that all these adverse factors would be reflected in the exports, but this is not so, and if there has been since 1912 no great expanding power in the principal export, it has at least shown a marked resiliency, and there is no doubt that production would be further increased if labour were developed.

Exports of Palm Kernels since 1912.

	Tons.
1912	50,751
1913	49,201
1914	35,915
1915	39,624
1916	45,316
1917	58,020
1918	40,816
1919	50,622
1920	50,425
1921	40,409
1922	49,029
1923	59,545

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 3,346 tons, valued at £102,645, as against 2,076 tons, valued at £61,786, in 1922. The amount of oil exported in 1923 has only once been exceeded in previous years. The amount exported represents only a fraction of the amount produced, as this commodity forms one of the principal articles of diet locally.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last 21 years :—

Palm Kernels.

	£			£	
1902	8·90	per ton	1913	18·72	per ton
1903	8·63	,,	1914	15·52	,,
1904	8·51	,,	1915	12·72	,,
1905	9·57	,,	1916	15·02	,,
1906	10·88	,,	1917	14·52	,,
1907	12·82	,,	1918	16·74	,,
1908	9·87	,,	1919	23·52	,,
1909	11·25	,,	1920	27·79	,,
1910	14·98	,,	1921	16·95	,,
1911	15·33	,,	1922	17·50	,,
1912	15·63	,,	1923	18·75	,,

Palm Oil.

	£			£	
1902	14·15	per ton	1913	22·95	per ton
1903	15·09	,,	1914	21·99	,,
1904	16·97	,,	1915	23·60	,,
1905	17·33	,,	1916	23·92	,,
1906	18·32	,,	1917	28·72	,,
1907	21·07	,,	1918	32·38	,,
1908	18·53	,,	1919	34·84	,,
1909	18·77	,,	1920	59·63	,,
1910	24·24	,,	1921	40·35	,,
1911	26·73	,,	1922	35·67	,,
1912	23·00	,,	1923	35·75	,,

This table shows that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1902, the value during 1920 was altogether abnormal.

The following table gives the average monthly prices in the United Kingdom obtained by palm kernels and palm oil during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923:—

	Palm Kernels.			Palm Oil.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	23	17½	18	36	39¼	34
February ..	19½	18	18¾	31½	37½	36½
March	18	18¾	20	30	45½	38½
April	18	18½	21½	28	42	38½
May	20	17¾	19	29	36	36
June	19	17¾	19	34	33	34½
July	21	17¾	17¾	35	33	33¾
August ..	23	17½	17	36	32	33
September ..	22	16¼	18¼	38	31	34¾
October ..	18	16½	18¼	34	32	35½
November ..	18	17	19	38	33½	36½
December ..	18¼	17¼	20¼	36	33½	38

The export duties on gum copal (3*d*. per lb.) and palm oil (£1 0*s*. 10*d*. per ton) were abolished on the 27th November, 1923, and the *ad valorem* import duty on foodstuffs, groceries, etc., was reduced from 25 to 12½ per cent. on the 5th December, 1923.

Ginger.—The export of ginger showed an increase of 65 tons (£10,148) over the figures for the preceding year. In all 1,395 tons were shipped to the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the latter country taking 87 per cent. of the total exported. This is a complete reversal of the position disclosed by the 1922 figures, which showed that the United Kingdom took 70 per cent. and America 30 per cent. As America refused to admit ginger of poor quality these figures are an eloquent testimony to the propaganda work in the preparation of ginger conducted by the Lands and Forests Department. The average price obtainable was 51*s*. 4*d*. per cwt., as compared with 36*s*. 9*d*. per cwt. in 1922.

(*c*) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade £1,457,799, or 74·71 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 71·22 per cent. in 1922; £185,548, or 9·52 per cent., was with the United States, as compared with 11·39 in 1922; Foreign West African Possessions £116,921, or 6 per cent.

Of the export trade £1,143,494, or 71·5 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £142,543, or 8·87 per cent., to British West African Possessions; and £52,678, or 3·28 per cent., to the United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade, and only 13·29 per cent. of the export, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

(*d*) Shipping.

There was a substantial increase of 325,173 tons in the net tonnage of vessels entering at ports in the Colony during the year. In 1923, 1,562,105 tons were entered, as against 1,236,932 in 1922, the revival of trade being illustrated by this. The tonnage entered is more by 98,503 than the tonnage entered in 1913. As compared with 1922, there was an increase in British shipping of 161,577 tons, while Dutch shipping increased by 75,672, Germany by 68,032 tons, America by 45,722 tons, and Italian by 24,181 tons; Swedish, French and Danish shipping all showed a decrease. Prior to the outbreak of war the German was the only serious competitor of the British flag on the West African trade routes, and it is interesting to observe how other foreign countries have since entered the lists.

Since 1921 the tonnage of German vessels has increased by more than 100 per cent., and this country now contributes 9·58 per cent. to the total tonnage of vessels entering the Colony.

The percentage of British shipping was 68·09, as compared with 70 per cent. in 1913 and 72·97 per cent. in 1922.

Although only two vessels are recorded as entering Sherbro, a larger number of vessels called there. The majority of such vessels, however, first entered at Freetown and are included in the returns for that port only.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the years 1922 and 1923.

	Vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.	
	1922.		1923.					
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	562	1,224,916	635	1,552,488	73	327,572	—	—
Sherbro ..	—	—	2	1,863	2	1,863	—	—
Mano Salija	18	10,602	5	6,343	—	—	13	4,259
Sulima ..	8	1,414	1	1,411	—	—	7	3
Total ..	588	1,236,932	643	1,562,105	75	329,435	20	4,262

	Vessels cleared.				Increase.		Decrease.	
	1922.		1923.					
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	559	1,236,180	631	1,549,144	72	312,964	—	—
Sherbro ..	1	1,030	4	4,452	3	3,422	—	—
Mano Salija	8	51	2	1,415	—	1,364	6	—
Sulima ..	4	33	1	4,020	—	3,987	3	—
Total ..	572	1,237,294	638	1,559,031	75	321,637	9	—

IV. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year. Of these the following are the more important :—

No. 10 of 1923.—" The West African Frontier Ordinance," consolidating the constitution of the West African Frontier Force.

No. 11 of 1923.—" The West African Frontier Force Reserve Force Ordinance," constituting the Reserve Force of the West African Frontier Force.

No. 18 of 1923.—" The Money-Lenders Ordinance," regulating and controlling the business of money lending.

No. 23 of 1923.—" The Arms and Ammunition Ordinance," bringing into operation the provisions of the Convention held at St. Germain-en-Laye in 1919 for the regulation of the traffic in Arms and Ammunition.

No. 28 of 1923.—" The Sherbro Judicial District Ordinance," revising and regulating the administration of the finances, etc., of the Sherbro Judicial District.

V. LANDS AND FORESTS.

The success of agriculture in a country like Sierra Leone is dependent on the maintenance and preservation of existing forests. The Division of Forests has been active in the reservation of existing patches of forest. At the close of 1923 a total of 246·70 square miles of forest was reserved and the restricted and protective areas were 73 square miles. Beyond this surveys and demarcations, totalling a further 114·85 square miles, were completed pending the final constitution of the reserves. Strip surveys were also started in various reserves with a view to future exploitation. With the reorganisation of the Division, arrangements were made to divide the country, for the purposes of forest administration, into four working circles, each in charge of an Assistant Conservator as executive officer.

Timber was supplied for the construction and equipment of the Sierra Leone Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition, and sample logs were shipped to the Imperial Institute for commercial reports as to their utility.

The agricultural side of the Lands and Forests Department carried out an elaborate programme of trials and experiments at N'jala, its central station, where various economic exotic plants were tested and important data collected from numerous field and plantation trials.

The encouragement of the following crops formed an important part of the Department's scheme of work :—

Cotton.—Seed of Allen Long Staple Cotton was imported from Nigeria and distributed to Chiefs and people in areas which were considered most suited to the crop. The results obtained, and the Imperial Institute reports on the crop harvested were sufficiently encouraging to warrant the starting of cotton cultivation on a more extensive scale.

Coconuts.—Along the littoral of the Southern Province coconut nurseries were started by the natives with a view to extending the cultivation of this product.

Cacao.—The encouragement of cacao cultivation in suitable localities of the Southern Province was actively pushed forward, with the result that nurseries were started in most of the towns. It is estimated that nearly a quarter of a million seeds were sown. Trained officers demonstrated to the owners of existing plantations the proper methods of fermentation. An encouraging price was offered to the native cultivator at the beginning of the season for prepared beans.

Swamp Rice.—The cultivation was started of this crop on the tidal areas of certain rivers and creeks of the Southern Province. Seed rice was supplied free by Government. Encouraging results were obtained and an increased cultivation is expected in the future. Swamp rice trials were also made on an inland swamp at N'jala, the best variety yielding 75 bushels per acre. Improved export varieties of maize from South Africa and a large consignment of groundnut seed from Gambia were obtained. The distribution of these, as well as of seeds and plants from the Experimental Farm at N'jala to the Chiefs and people formed an important part of the work of the Division of Agriculture.

Ginger.—Intensive propaganda work was carried out in the ginger growing areas, with a view to improving the market quality of the Sierra Leone ginger. There is no doubt that there was a marked improvement in some of the ginger purchased by the merchants.

Inspection of Produce.—The European Inspector and Native Sub-Inspectors were busily engaged in the inspection of palm kernels. The result of their labours is shown by the good quality of kernels shipped from Sierra Leone at the present time. There were 51 convictions under the Native Produce Ordinance and the revenue from produce licences totalled £1,311 5*s.* 8*d.*

Agricultural Surveys.—An agricultural survey was made of the Colony by the Commissioner of Lands and Forests, and surveys of various parts of the Protectorate were carried out by the Commissioner and by the Director of Agriculture. As a result of these surveys and information collected an agricultural map has since been compiled.

VI. EDUCATION.

GENERAL.

The Colony is well provided with both elementary and secondary schools; there is considerable educational activity in the Protectorate, but much yet remains to be done there.

I. COLONY.

The Government Educational Institutions in the Colony are the following :—

(*a*) The Model School, providing both primary and secondary education, with 191 boys and 55 girls on the roll, and 70 boys attending the secondary classes.

(*b*) The *Madrasas* (Mohammedan Schools), five in number, providing elementary education for 451 boys and 190 girls.

The standard of the Model School is good, but the class rooms are congested and additional accommodation is required.

The following schedule gives details of all elementary schools in the Colony and Protectorate in receipt of Government assistance :—

Schools.	No.	Number on Roll.	Average attendance.
Government	15	1,405	1,110
Church of England	36	2,959	2,083
United Brethren in Christ ..	14	894	665
Roman Catholic	7	1,103	772
Wesleyan Methodist	24	2,385	1,627
United Brethren in Africa ..	2	119	88
American Methodist Episcopal	2	72	53
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1	44	30
Countess of Huntingdon ..	2	117	83
American Wesleyan	2	68	41
United Methodist	12	828	592
Mohammedan	5	640	452
Total	122	10,634	7,596

Secondary Schools.

There are eleven secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Model School. Of these, four are assisted schools. The four assisted schools received £497 in capitation grants.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham), the Grammar School, the Wesleyan Boys' High School and the Albert Academy for boys, the Annie Walsh School and the Wesleyan Girls' High School for Girls.

The old naval victualling station at King Tom is being converted into a Government secondary school for boys. This will relieve the congestion at the Government Model School caused by the presence of the secondary classes there. The curriculum will include the subjects required for the Cambridge Examinations for Junior and Senior School Certificates, with a distinct bias towards Science, a subject which is at present not fully provided for by the other secondary schools.

Examinations are held for all schools for the Elementary and Intermediate Examinations; all candidates for the Civil Service Entrance Examination must have passed the latter examination.

Examinations are also held for the Cambridge Junior and Senior Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year :—

	Entered.	Passed.
Cambridge Preliminary ...	39	15
Cambridge Junior	43	20
Cambridge Senior	20	7

Trades Schools.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones' Trades School was opened in 1920; it is partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government grant.

II. PROTECTORATE.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are :—

(1) The Bo School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs.
(2) The Agricultural College, N'jala.
(3) Bumpe School.
(4) Baiima School.
(5) Gbangbama School.
(6) Gambia School

and six vernacular schools referred to in a subsequent paragraph.

The Bo School has 158 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

N'jala Agricultural College is a boarding school in the Central Province and has 119 boys on the roll. It was founded for the purpose of training teachers with a practical knowledge of agriculture to take charge of small vernacular schools throughout the

Protectorate, and it operates in conjunction with the Government Experimental Station at N'jala. The year 1923 saw the first fruits of the College's work in that six vernacular schools were built and staffed with old pupils of the College; at the end of the year 261 pupils were receiving instruction at those schools.

The Bumpe School had an average attendance of 47 boys, the Baiima School of 18.

VII. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

(a) HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire early in 1920 and all records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new hospital, which was nearing completion by the end of 1921, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

A portion of the new hospital was completed in 1922, consisting of three blocks of two wards each, operating theatre, kitchen, laundry, fumigating block and staff latrine and bath block.

In addition to the above the new hospital was planned to comprise three more blocks for Africans, one for Europeans, quarters for the resident surgeon and nursing sisters, offices and stores. No work on these additions was undertaken in 1923, but a resumption is contemplated at an early date.

Patients admitted to the Colonial Hospital numbered 1,577, and there were 121 deaths; 71 operations were performed. Two hundred patients were admitted to the Maternity Ward, Colonial Hospital; this is the largest recorded number for this ward.

At the Colonial Hospital 11,335 out-patients were treated, the total attendances being 48,320.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, there were 101 inmates on 31st December, 1922, 56 were admitted during the year and 23 died, the total number treated during the year being 133. The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

There were 281 admissions to the Kissy Infirmaries during the year; a total of 349 cases were treated; there were 47 deaths.

One case of smallpox and 37 of chicken-pox were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, of which one chicken-pox case died from senility.

Nursing Home. There were 131 admissions, 50 being Government officials. Two non-officials died.

(*b*) POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits numbered 7,907 and amounted to £21,194 1*s*. 8*d*., showing an increase of 1,475 in number and of £558 1*s*. 10*d*. in value when compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 4,407 and amounted to £26,850 0*s*. 11*d*., showing an increase of 66 in number and a decrease of £3,138 13*s*. 1*d*. in value in comparison with the figures for 1922.

The average value of each deposit was £2 13*s*. 7*d*. and of each withdrawal £6 1*s*. 10*d*., as against £3 4*s*. 2*d*. and £6 18*s*. 2*d*. in the previous year.

During the year 1,044 accounts were opened and 1,114 were closed, showing a net decrease of 70. At the end of the year the names of 5,036 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £65,349 16*s*. 7½*d*. The average value of each account was, at the close of the year, £12 19*s*. 6*d*.

The total sum invested is £61,529 5*s*. 11*d*. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,304 14*s*. 5*d*. The interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,545 12*s*. 0*d*.

(*c*) PORT AND MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Sherbro River. During the year six of the ten buoys marking the entrance to the Sherbro River were lifted, brought to Freetown, overhauled, cleaned and repaired, and relaid in their respective charted positions.

The deepest draft to ascend the river as far as the Bomplake anchorage was 21 feet 9 inches.

Scarcies River. The survey of the Yellaboi channel was completed during the early months of the year and five buoys were laid. The navigation of the approaches to the Great Scarcies River, formerly difficult and risky, has now been made quite simple.

VIII. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(*a*) POLICE.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1923 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, three Inspectors, two African Sub-Inspectors and 303 Non-Commissioned Officers and men. The cadre of officers is the same as it was in 1922, the number of Non-Commissioned Officers and men during that year being 318.

During the course of the year the force moved into barracks of its own at King Tom, where a parade and recreation ground and open land of a considerable area is reserved to the police. Hitherto the members of the force lived in their own houses in Freetown. The discipline and smartness of the force have appreciably improved in consequence of this move.

The health of the force was not so good as in 1922; it is suggested that the removal to the barracks just before the rains, and living there under strange conditions, contributed to this increase of sickness.

The following table shows the cases reported and arrests made in 1922 and 1923 :—

Year.	Cases reported.	Arrests made.	Convictions.	Percentage convictions to arrests.
1922	2,169	2,194	1,732	78·9
1923	2,370	2,362	1,897	78·1

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the two years :—

	1922.	1923.
Murder	1	2
House-breaking	11	14
Burglary	10	13
Shop-breaking	18	2
Rape	3	5
Larceny	272	316
Receiving	38	52

(*b*) FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the City Council. One serious outbreak of fire took place in January, involving the destruction of seven houses.

(*c*) PRISONS.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1922 and 1923 :—

	1922.	1923.
Males	1,091	990
Females	12	20
Juveniles	25	30

The decrease in the number of males committed to prison is attributed to the operation of the Repatriation of Convicted Natives Ordinance, No. 10 of 1920, and the Deportation of Aliens Ordinance, No. 2 of 1920.

The increase in the number of juvenile offenders is unsatisfactory, and a Special Committee has been appointed to report and advise on the question of juvenile crime in Freetown.

A high standard of health was maintained during the year. There was no serious outbreak of any disease. There were 279 admissions to hospital during the year and three deaths. This is the lowest number of deaths occurring in the hospital since 1906.

In the Protectorate prisons 783 persons were committed to prison in 1923, as compared with 1,039 in 1922, the daily average for the year being 160.

(*d*) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

In the Supreme Court of the Colony 34 persons were convicted—6 for larceny and 19 for other offences against property, as compared with 90 in 1922, of which 51 were for offences against property.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate 12 persons were convicted, of which 1 was for murder, 3 for manslaughter and 4 for other offences against the peace, as compared with 43 in 1922, of which 16 were for larceny.

In the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 2,612 persons were convicted summarily, 501 being for larceny and 1,588 for offences against revenue laws and kindred laws, as compared with 2,116 convictions in 1922, 523 for larceny, and 1,172 for offences against revenue laws.

In the District Commissioner's Court at Waterloo there were 120 convictions, 40 being for praedial larceny, as against 195 in 1922, of which 77 were for praedial larceny.

In the Courts of the Commissioners of the Protectorate 909 persons were convicted, as against 1,212 in 1922.

IX. VITAL STATISTICS.

(*a*) EUROPEAN POPULATION.

The number of European residents during 1923 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	188
Non-Officials† †	420
Military	486

(† † This figure includes white Americans.)

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 102, as compared with 109 in 1922. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans from climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Total.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic	Non-Climatic	Clim.	Non-Clim.	
1912 ..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ..	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ..	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ..	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921 ..	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922 ..	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923† ..	—	—	4	1	2	—	7

(*b*) POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Population 1921 Census.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.
Freetown	44,142	19·3	30	437
Colony other than Freetown.	41,021	18·7	21·5	261

Owing to the non-registration of many births the " available " birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the Infantile Mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it really is. It is nevertheless excessively high, and " Infant Welfare " work is being undertaken on an increasing scale with a view to reducing it. According to the 1921 Census the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(*c*) SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was not in quarantine during the year. Quarantine was declared against ports in the Canary Islands, the

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* Influenza Epidemic.

† (1923) Two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour in addition to the above ; one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

Gold Coast, Senegal and the Gambia, owing to yellow fever, smallpox and plague. Two cases of smallpox were reported in Freetown and there were 17 cases in the Protectorate. Chickenpox was fairly frequent both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

(*d*) RECORD OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

	1923.	1922.	1921.
Number vaccinated	21,517	26,448	35,989
,, successful	10,294	9,795	10,917
,, unsuccessful	4,266	6,302	6,794
,, not inspected	6,957	10,351	18,278

Three cases of anthrax in cattle were reported in Freetown and dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health, as against 25 in 1922.

The Superintendent of Freetown Water Works reports that there was no shortage of water during the year. The average daily consumption was 429,143 gallons.

The mosquito larvae prosecutions in the Freetown Police Court was 560, as compared with 373 in 1922.

The Sanitary Department purchased and destroyed 13,168 rats, paying for them at the rate of 2*d*. each until September, when the rate was reduced to 1*d*.

(*e*) CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70°. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95°, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. It is not always damp—speaking generally, there are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunder-storms known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 ft. above sea level, for the last 40 years are now available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands.

Average Rainfall, Freetown
(Tower Hill).

Period.	Average Rainfall.
1882–1891	166·07
1892–1901	165·15
1902–1911	156·00
1912–1921	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 in. in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 in. in 1914.

In December and January Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east Trades, and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in 1923 (125 in.) was almost exactly equal to the average for the past 10 years, but a good deal below the average for the past 40 years.

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 5·91 in. on 16th July. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 69 deg. on 17th, 18th and 19th August; the highest, 95 deg. on 21st March.

(*f*) CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis and golf. As the country is hilly, cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; but for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as good English meat, but when properly cooked is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

The Colony suffers from the lack of any cold storage accommodation, but ice, fresh meat and fish, game, etc., may be obtained from the outward-bound mail boats of Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, Ltd. (*See also* "Climate.")

(*g*) POPULATION (COLONY AND PROTECTORATE).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) has increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902-1911 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1901-1911 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population *see* "Political Administration."

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

(*a*) Postal.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 41. Money Order business was transacted at 18 offices and Postal Order business at 32.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,493,981, as compared with 1,478,964 in 1922. The total was made up as follows :—

	Letters, Postcards, and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured	Ordinary	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	362,294	11,554	13,815	2,090
Despatched to United Kingdom	162,277	19,921	2,323	131
Received from West African Colonies	114,831	17,248	4,742	10
Despatched to West African Colonies	115,241	10,239	1,520	3
Internal	609,509	43,195	11,039	—

The Money Order transactions numbered 5,827 and amounted to £54,206, showing a decrease of 61 in number and an increase of £506 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

Money Orders.	1922.		1923.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom..	368	1,959	363	1,621
Despatched to United Kingdom..	2,025	13,964	1,961	14,162
Received from West African Colonies	746	9,055	590	6,945
Despatched to West African Colonies	390	3,718	406	4,470
Inland	2,359	23,004	2,507	27,088
Total	5,888	53,700	5,827	54,286

Postal Orders issued numbered 44,183 and amounted to £30,215, as compared with 43,743 to the value of £30,351 in 1922. 38,452 Orders, amounting to £28,070, were paid, an increase of 1,702 in number and £826 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The Postal Revenue totalled £12,912, showing a decrease of £122 as compared with 1922. The customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £8,119, and stamps to the value of £3,386 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £17,456, which shows an increase of £218 when compared with the figures of 1922.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles from Freetown). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano on the railway there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengama to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a boat service, and from Sengama there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles).

From Songo Town (on the railway) there is a telephone to Port Lokko.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1922 and 1923 (exclusive of messages sent on Railway service) was :—

	1922.	1923.
Public Telegrams	40,980	43,524
Government Telegrams ...	11,743	12,447

The revenue from telegrams was £4,127, as compared with £4,398 in 1922.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and sent through the office in Freetown of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown with 85 subscribers, of which 28 are Government offices and quarters, 19 are railway offices and 35 private subscribers.

The telephone revenue in 1923 amounted to £1,263 and the maintenance cost £912.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½	Main Line. Water Street to Pendembu.
104	Branch Line. Boia to Kamabai.
5½	Hill Station Line.
1	Branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.
338	

Approximately 17 miles of sidings at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1923, was £1,696,977.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1922 and 1923 :—

	1913.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
General Revenue	168,418	171,986	189,297
Expenditure	90,155	195,052	183,205

The welcome increase in revenue and decrease in expenditure may be attributed to the closer administration of all branches of the Railway, and in particular the Traffic Branch, as well as to the drastic retrenchments and economies practised during the year. The decrease in expenditure is all the more satisfactory in view of the fact that it includes a sum of £28,430 spent in relaying part of the track.

	1913.	1922.	1923.
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ..	114·11	91·10	99·26
Working expenses per train-mile (in pence)	61·09	103·22	96·07
Passengers carried	438,388	531,493	583,290

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 46 engines, 80 coaching vehicles and 330 goods vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 61,220 tons, as compared with 51,881 in 1922 and 62,084 in 1913.

The reduction in fares which took place in 1922 stimulated long distance travelling in a very marked manner, and the increase in passenger traffic receipts noted in last year's Report has been maintained.

(*b*) ROADS.

The following table gives the particulars of the first-class motor roads constructed or under construction in the Protectorate at the end of the year 1923.

Roads.	Total mileage.	Mileage formation completed December 1923.	Mileage permanently bridged.	Mileage temporarily bridged for motors (native stick bridges).
Kumrabai-Bo-Pujehun ..	107	99½ (*c*)	40 (*a*)	35½ (*b*)
Boadgibu-Blama-Panguma	63 (*d*)	63 (*d*)	44 (*e*)	19 (*f*)
Segbwema-Bandajuma ..	26	23 (*g*)	7	19
Pendembu-Kailahun-Mofindo	24	24	18	6
Moyamba-Sembehun ..	19	19	18	Nil (*h*)
Sumbuya-Koribundu ..	21	17¾	9½	8¼
Total	260	246½	136½	87¾

These roads serve as feeders by motor transport for the important railway centres, Pendembu, Blama, Segbwema, Hangha, Bo and Moyamba.

It has been reckoned that a first-class road with permanent bridges costs about £800 a mile to construct. Experiments are being made with bridges of specially selected sawn timbers. It is estimated that such bridges should last for at least four or five years, and that they should cost a very great deal less than concrete bridges.

(*a*) Bo-Mandu 18 miles. Bo to Koribundu 22 miles.

(*b*) Koribundu-Pujehun 26 miles. Mandu towards Mongheri 9½ miles.

(*c*) Bo-Pujehun 48 miles. Bo towards Mongheri 27½ miles. Between Mongheri and Kumrabai 24 miles.

(*d*) Boadgibu-Blama 24 miles. Blama-Hangha 19 miles. Hangha-Panguma 20 miles.

(*e*) Boadgibu to Blama 24 miles. Hangha to Panguma 20 miles.

(*f*) Blama to Hangha.

(*g*) Widening only required.

(*h*) Reaches to outside of Sembehun where a temporary footbridge exists.

(c) WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways, and steps are being taken to open them up further.

XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Foremost among these were :—

(*a*) The completion of the foreshore protective works along the western side of the new Colonial Hospital. This was begun in 1922 in consequence of the landslide, which threatened the stability of the Hospital site.

(*b*) The reconstruction of the main part of Government House. The previously existing unsightly wooden front was found on examination to be dangerously insecure and was replaced by a concrete front of substantial design, including a "kiosk" and *porte cochère.*

(*c*) The conversion of an old building at King Tom into a Government Secondary School. This was still in progress at the end of the year.

(*d*) The completion of the Saunders Street and King Jimmy drainage systems. It is worthy of record that in the course of the excavations necessitated by the King Jimmy drainage system a large syenite boulder was brought to light having names and lettering inscribed upon it. The most important of these inscriptions are as follows: "M. A. RUITER VICE ADMIRALEN VAN HOLLANT EN WESTURIES LANT A ° 1664."

XIII. FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council of Freetown, a partly elected and partly nominated body, is charged with the lighting of the city, the licensing and control of parks, markets and slaughter houses, etc., the administration of the water supply, and the maintenance and control of the Fire Brigade. It also is the licensing authority for vehicles and for certain classes of licensable occupations.

The main sources of the Council's revenue are estimated for 1923-1924 at :—

	£
Water Supply and Rates	9,061
City Rates	5,669
Licenses, etc.	2,211

Its total estimated expenditure for the year 1923-1924 is £9,861.

The annual value of rateable hereditaments in Freetown has risen from £56,480 in 1916-1918 to £82,625 in 1923-1924.

XIV. POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION.

(*a*) COLONY.

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in its vicinity, Sherbro and York Islands and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone Peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island and Turner's Peninsula, although Colony, are administered as Protectorate*, and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (*a*) the Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (*b*) the Headquarters District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Islands, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters District (as well as the District Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (*i.e.*, of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows :—

District.	Area. sq. miles.	Population.
Police (including Freetown) ...	50	56,980
Headquarters	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281

(*b*) PROTECTORATE.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Northern and Central Provinces are each subdivided into four Districts, and the Southern Province into five, under District Commissioners.

The area and population of each District are as follows :—

Northern Province.	sq. miles.	Approximate Native Population.
Port Lokko (Headquarters Port Lokko)	2,160	153,300
Batkanu (Headquarters Batkanu) ...	2,940	154,600
Bombali (Headquarters Makene) ...	3,300	173,350
Koinadugu (Headquarters Kaballa) ...	5,450	85,700

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* Except an area of 10 sq. miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board.

	sq. miles.	Approximate Native Population.
Central Province.		
Moyamba (Headquarters Moyamba) ...	1,540	100,696
Konno (Headquarters Panguma) ...	2,400	167,450
Kennema (Headquarters Kennema) ...	2,190	168,531
Pendembu (Headquarters Pendembu)...	1,440	151,591
Southern Province.		
Gbangbama† (Headquarters Gbangbama)	1,620	69,500
Sumbuya (Headquarters Sumbuya) ...	1,030	98,758
Pujehun (Headquarters Pujehun) ...	1,140	97,273
Mano River (Headquarters Zimmi) ...	890	
Bonthe (Headquarters Bonthe) ...	880	32,154
	26,980	1,450,903

The total European Political Staff consists of only twenty-seven European officers, five or six of whom are usually on leave. The remaining twenty-two officers administer an area of 26,980 square miles; in other words, on an average each officer is in charge of some 1,230 miles. To help him he has a clerk and, may be, about a dozen members of the Court Messenger Force, a disciplined body of Protectorate natives performing, in the Protectorate, such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties that the exigencies of the Protectorate administration demand.

XV. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms a part of the West African Frontier Force, the other component parts of which are the Nigeria Regiment, the Gold Coast Regiment and the Gambia Company.

The Battalion has its Headquarters at Daru in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, a town on the Main Line of the Railway, some 214 miles from Freetown. One Company is stationed at Makene in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, an important trading centre on the Branch line of the Railway, 148 miles from Freetown.

XVI. IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government officers were furnished to the Government during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. In addition, information relating to Sierra Leone products was supplied to enquirers.

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† With a Sub-District administered from Sembehun.

Coffee. Specimens of the coffee (*Coffea stenophylla*) grown in the mountain district were forwarded in order to ascertain the prospects of establishing a market for this variety in London. They were clean and of good appearance, but of rather low grade. Consignments would however be readily saleable in the United Kingdom, and would also find a market on the Continent. Valuations in comparison with the principal commercial grades were supplied.

Liberian coffee received from the Colony was described by merchants as a good type of West African Liberian coffee which should be readily saleable in Europe. The Institute offered to assist in marketing trial consignments.

Cocoa. This cocoa, which was prepared in the Southern Province, consisted of small to medium-sized beans of the Forastero variety, which had been imperfectly fermented. Manufacturers regarded the cocoa as of poor quality, but stated that if properly fermented and dried it should realise the same price as cocoa of similar character imported from Nigeria and the Gold Coast.

Rice. A series of paddy rice, stated to represent the principal types grown in the Scarsies region, exhibited practically no difference in appearance either before or after removal of the husks. The husked rice prepared from the samples at the Imperial Institute resembled Indian "Askoolie" rice and would realise a low price, being suitable only for chicken food or manufacturing purposes. There is no market for paddy rice in the United Kingdom, and only a small demand on the Continent. Particulars of machinery for husking and cleaning rice, which could be used by the native cultivators, were supplied.

Ginger. In connection with endeavours to improve the quality of the ginger exported from Sierra Leone, two samples were received for examination and valuation. One of them was regarded as of fair quality for Sierra Leone ginger, whilst the other was described by merchants as of better quality than any African ginger they had previously received. The Imperial Institute offered to take charge of a trial consignment of the superior quality if desired. Commercial samples of Cochin and Jamaica ginger which realise higher prices than West African were forwarded to the Colony for reference in connection with the preparation of consignments for export.

Lime Juice. Two samples of lime juice prepared on the Government Experimental Farm at N'jala were of normal composition, the amount of citric acid present being equal to that in commercial lime juice of good quality.

Chillies. In view of the possibility of extending the production of chillies in Sierra Leone, information was desired as to the prospects of finding an increased market in the United Kingdom. Specimens forwarded from the Colony in connection with this investigation were considered in the trade to be of fair quality. At that time there was an abundant supply of chillies in the market, but one of the firms consulted was willing to consider offers of consignments for future delivery. The results of the enquiries made by the Imperial Institute indicated that, although the chillies would be saleable in the United Kingdom in limited quantities, it is unlikely that there would be an extensive demand for them.

Palm Oil. Oil prepared by a depericarping machine purchased for trial in the Colony at the suggestion of the Imperial Institute was found to be of good quality and to have a low acid value. Suggestions were made by the Imperial Institute for improving the working of the machine and for further experiments to demonstrate its efficiency.

Castor Seed. A sample of large castor seed grown in the Konnoh District gave a satisfactory yield of oil and would be saleable in the United Kingdom at about the same price as Bombay castor seed. A sample of smaller seed, yielding somewhat less oil, was regarded as a little less valuable than Bombay seed.

Information was furnished to an enquirer regarding the cultivation and production of castor seed, the preparation of castor oil, and the possibility of using oil from Sierra Leone seed for aircraft lubrication.

Cotton. Samples of " Quandi," " Ndului " and " Fandewa " cotton from the Southern Province were examined and reports furnished as to their quality and current value in the United Kingdom.

Timbers. The prospects of finding a market in the United Kingdom for " Kondi " wood (*Anisophylla Laurina*) and *Polyadoa Elliottii* wood were considered by the Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Timbers. Kondi wood has a highly ornamental figure, but is somewhat heavy, a feature which would militate against its use for many purposes. Further information as to the quantity available and the price at which the wood can be supplied was requested in order that the desirability of arranging for an experimental shipment might be considered.

Polyadoa Elliottii is a hard close-grained timber which might be useful for tool handles, carving and other special purposes for which the second grades of boxwood are usually employed, but it is unlikely under present conditions to find a profitable market in competition with ordinary boxwood.

Information was furnished to enquirers regarding the Powellising process for timber, and the possible utilisation of the wood of *Musanga Smithii* for the local manufacture of paper pulp for export.

Tobacco. " Tankoro " tobacco, which is produced to a considerable extent in the Northern Province for local use, was of satisfactory composition except that the amount of nitrogen was rather high. It had good burning qualities, but the flavour was not particularly attractive, and this defect, together with the small size and poor appearance of the leaf, would render it unsuitable for the United Kingdom market.

" Soro " tobacco, produced from selected leaves from the same plant as " Tankoro " tobacco, had a slightly better flavour and aroma, but would not be likely to prove attractive to Europeans.

Miscellaneous. The results of technical trials at the Imperial Institute showed that Knoptho bark (*Ficus* sp.). which is used in the Koinadugu District of the Northern Province as a dye for native-made cotton garments, would not be of interest in the United Kingdom, although it is suitable for local use either as a dyestuff or tanning material.

Other enquiries relating to Sierra Leone dealt with during the period under review included the following:—The constituents of Belowi bark; the identity of Gorli seed and the medicinal value of the oil; the properties of Po-Yoak oil; *Lophira alata* seed; and the preparation of oil-palm fibre.

PUBLICATIONS.

A Report on the Operations of the Imperial Institute was published as No. 1 of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, Vol. XXI (1923), in which reference was made to the work conducted for Sierra Leone during recent years. An article on the medicinal value of Oncoba oils was also published in the Bulletin during the year.

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

The site of the Court has been moved further west in the North Gallery, where it is better lighted, and has been enlarged to 630 square feet. This has involved overhauling and rearranging the whole of the exhibits. The statistical board relating to area, population and trade has been revised.

Six photographs of scenes in Sierra Leone presented by Mr. Addison have been enlarged and are now exhibited in the Court.

Lectures on Sierra Leone have been given to school parties in the Court by the Guide Lecturer and to members of the general public by Colonel M. C. Nangle, F.R.G.S. Specimens of Sierra Leone products have been supplied to schools.

No new exhibits for exhibition in the Court were received from the Government during the year.

G. C. DU BOULAY,

Acting Colonial Secretary

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
27th August, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1186	Straits Settlements	1923
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	,,
1215	British Honduras	,,
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,
1218	Jamaica	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1275.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(*For Reports for* 1922 *and* 1923 *see Nos.* 1165 *and* 1219,
price 1*s*. 6*d*. *and* 1*s*. 3*d*. *respectively*).

LONDON:
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No. 1275.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

PREFACE.

Geographical and Historical.

(*a*) GEOGRAPHICAL.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of west longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south, and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, adjacent to Sherbro, as it is a port of call for seagoing steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

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* A Map will be found in the Report for 1921, No. 1150.

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account, during the Great War, Freetown Harbour was of considerable importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is, on the whole, well laid out with straight and often broad streets; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past ten years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past five years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time 308 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is 44,142 (1921 Census).

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. Attempts are, however, being made both in the Northern and in the Southern Provinces to render certain of the rivers navigable for trade purposes for a greater proportion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel with Turner's Peninsula, is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards Sherbro Island, even in the dry season, and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain parts on the Sewa and Wanje Rivers.

The nature of the country also varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of

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the south merges with the more thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate was surveyed by a geologist in the years 1918-21, who was unable to detect the presence of any minerals of commercial value in deposits of sufficient magnitude to be worth exploiting. Further investigations are, however, to be made in 1926.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57·48 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is somewhat denser in the Central and Southern Provinces than it is in the Northern.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, is 1,456,148, and is composed of the following tribes :—

Northern Province...	Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos, Limbas, Lokkos, and Temnes, with some Mandingoes, Fulahs, and Kissis.
Central Province ...	Konnos, Kissis and Mendes, with some Bandis and Golas.
Southern Province...	Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the most numerous of the Protectorate tribes.

(*b*) Historical.

Sierra Leone has been known to historians for many centuries, but its actual settlement as a British Colony was due to the awakening of the conscience of England in the matter of her attitude towards the extensive slave trade carried on up and down the West African coast during the eighteenth century.

Led by William Wilberforce, England determined upon the abolition of this trade, and, in order to make suitable provision primarily for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers, acquired a strip of land on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site, in May, 1787, the first colonists were landed and began the work—thereafter to be frequently threatened with total failure—of building up the Colony of Sierra Leone. The original grant made by the local chief, King Tom, was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembanna and the country was ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs, and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 " King " Farina and " King " Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies, and in the following year the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed.

It was not many years before the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullom—were ceded to the Crown; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. Thereafter the Government of the Colony began to make its weight increasingly felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. In 1852 the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony.

From 1866 to 1874 Sierra Leone was officially the senior West African Colony and the headquarters of the " West African Settlements." The Governor-in-Chief resided at Freetown and administered not only the Colony of Sierra Leone but those of the Gold Coast, Lagos and the Gambia in addition.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate, divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate; this broke out in the Karene District when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the House Tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. Early in the following year, however, the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful.

I. General.

The year 1924 was marked by sustained progress in all directions. The increased stability of trade and consequent improvement in the Colony's financial position not only enabled the Treasurer to show a greatly increased balance of surplus assets but also justified a reduction (late in the year) of the *ad valorem* import duty from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. The export of palm kernals, which in 1923 had beaten all previous records, showed a further increase in 1924, and the export of other products was well maintained.

Agricultural propaganda was intensified in all parts of the Colony and Protectorate, the efforts of the Lands and Forests Department being conspicuously directed towards the better cultivation of ginger and the introduction of American cotton.

The participation of Sierra Leone in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, though it entailed a vast amount of organization, work and expense, was a feature in the year's events of the greatest value to the Colony, which may be confidently expected to reap the benefits in increased trade in the future.

Politically, the most important event of the year was the abolition of the now defunct Legislative Council (the constitution of which provided for the appointment of five official and four nominated unofficial members, under the presidency of the Governor) and the substitution therefor of an enlarged Legislative Council consisting of :—

(1) The Governor as President;

(2) Official members: viz., the five senior members of the Executive Council, that is to say, the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of His Majesty's regular troops within the Colony, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, the Colonial Treasurer and the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services; and the Commissioners of the Northern, Central and Southern Provinces, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works and the Commissioner of Lands and Forests;

(3) Nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) Three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electoral District.

Elections in the Urban and Rural constituencies of the Colony were held on the 28th October, and the new Council was formally opened by the Governor on the 25th November.

The tranquillity and harmony which have for many years characterized the relations existing between the Government and the Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate were well maintained.

The Governor was absent from the Colony on leave between 25th June and 11th October; during this period the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke.

II. Financial.

(*a*) Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £868,319, as compared with £845,319 in 1923, and exceeded the original Estimate by £61,521.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1923 and 1924.

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Customs	317,463	512,339	480,733
Light Dues	6,938	9,641	10,747
Licences and Internal Revenue	79,745	14,100	14,827
*House Tax Receipts	—	59,730	59,973
Fees of Court	17,853	22,041	24,457
Post Office	14,487	12,912	11,953
Rents	417	676	577
Interest	12,324	6,558	10,378
Miscellaneous	1,821	18,025	34,815
Railway	167,305	189,297	219,046
Land Sales	30	—	813
Total	£618,383	£845,319	£868,319

At the end of 1923 there was a certain degree of overstocking, but the decrease in Customs revenue in 1924 was largely accounted for by the reduction of import duty on provisions from 25 per cent. to 12½ per cent. in December, 1923, and the abolition of the export duty on palm oil and gum copal in December, 1923.

The increase under " Miscellaneous Receipts " is due to the payment to the Colony of a sum of £21,260 from the West African Currency Board (*vide* " Currency " *infra*).

The increase under " Railway " is an index of enhanced trade prosperity.

(*b*) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £777,790, compared with £727,661 in 1923, and was less than the original Estimate by £8,240.

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* Previously shown under " Licences and Internal Revenue."

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	61,574	83,413	83,076
Pensions	8,228	38,946	38,232
Governor and Legislature ..	6,443	7,221	6,804
Colonial Secretary's Department	8,190	17,174	17,407
Provincial Administration ..	33,877	55,245	56,003
Treasury	4,813	9,005	8,636
Customs Department	14,683	19,151	20,977
Audit	3,051	4,001	4,300
Port and Marine Department ..	3,289	3,179	3,525
Legal Departments	11,670	12,921	15,320
Civil Police	10,082	22,167	22,798
Prisons	8,633	14,628	15,184
Medical Department	30,048	41,696	42,671
Sanitary	8,951	19,315	17,978
Education	13,296	22,447	28,439
Post Office	12,124	17,546	17,570
West African Frontier Force ..	40,638	36,377	35,217
Railway Department	146,060	154,705	156,544
Agricultural ,, ...	2,842	—	—
Forestry ,, ...	3,584	—	—
*Lands and Forests	—	15,953	22,590
Miscellaneous Services	23,914	25,679	28,349
Protectorate Roads Department (now under P.W.D.)	7,558	—	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads)	13,622	23,095	25,033
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads)	18,897	37,976	42,328
Public Works Extraordinary ..	58,856	15,918	25,398
Extraordinary Works, Railway	—	29,903	43,411
Survey of Colony and Protectorate	228	—	—
Railway Construction	48,999	—	—
Freetown Water Works.. ..	6,657	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special)	11,632	—	—
Total	£622,439	£727,661	£777,790

(c) LOAN EXPENDITURE.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 (raised before the War) amounted to £942,826. Of this £494,565 was spent on the redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,652 on Railway extension, £106,976 on Freetown Harbour Works and £12,023 on Roads Construction.

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* Previously shown under "Agricultural" and "Forestry."

(*d*) Assets and Liabilities.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £317,983.

The principal items are :—	£	£
Railway Stores	40,386	
Public Works Stores	12,072	
		52,458
Surplus Funds (invested) ...		70,377
Cash Balance—Treasurer's Account	24,249	
Railway Open Line Account ...	5,002	
		29,251
Cash held by Crown Agents ...		155,000

On 31st December, 1924, the market value of the securities held in respect of Surplus Funds invested was £54,619.

(*e*) Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1924, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £288,134 9*s*. 6*d*.

(*f*) Currency.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values: £5, £1 and 10*s*.

The stock of West African alloy coin at the beginning of the year was £139,025. This coin was issued to the two banks as required.

No money was received during the year from the West African Currency Board, but £118,986 4*s*. 9*d*. was received from the banks and taken into stock. £104,600 4*s*. 9*d*. was issued to the banks and £100,000 and £30,000 were shipped to the Currency Officers at Accra and Lagos respectively, leaving a balance in hand of £23,411 at the close of the year.

The face value of the West African currency notes held at the beginning of the year was £230,941. During the year sums representing £157,465 were returned to Currency Board's stock by the banks, and notes to the value of £261,006 were destroyed. The issues to the banks amounted to £4,936, and the balance on hand at the close of the year represented a face value of £122,464.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African currency notes issued in the other Colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the redemption of large sums in excess of the face value of amounts issued, as also for the fact that the value of notes actually in circulation at the end of the year is calculated at a minus sum of £617,194. A sum of £21,260 was received from the Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income on investments during the year.

(g) BANKING.

There are two banks—the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III. Trade, Industries and Shipping.

(a) IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1924 was **£1,730,643, as compared with £1,949,981 in 1923.**

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	**1,291,982**	**1,421,928**	**1,451,596**
Government Imports	**146,053**	**238,216**	**184,351**
Specie	**312,268**	**289,837**	**94,696**
Totals	**£1,750,303**	**£1,949,981**	**£1,730,643**

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	354,488	356,905	413,532
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	103,680	166,526	156,924
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	1,136,110	1,062,970
Miscellaneous	418	603	2,521
Specie	312,268	289,837	94,696
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,949,981	£1,730,643

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1923	46,378
1924	36,786

The value of spirits imported, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :—

	Per cent.
1913	5·18
1914	3·26
1915	4·47
1916	4·09
1917	3·57
1918	4·27
1919	2·83
1920	2·05
1921	2·18
1922	2·88
1923	1·54
1924	1·10

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 26,572 tons, valued at £68,601, as against 35,898 tons, valued at £101,319, in 1923.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 6,857 tons, at a cost of £15,326.

Cotton Piece-Goods.

Year.	Quantity Yards.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
		£	£	Per cent.
1912	14,538,851	231,676	22,014	10
1913	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10–12
1916	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15–20–25
1922	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25
1924	7,239,137*	308,372	70,050	25†

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* Up to and including 1923 quantity is shown in linear yards; the 1924 figures represent square yards.

† Until 27th November when it was reduced to 20%.

Other Cotton Goods.

Year.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
	£	£	Per cent.
1912	150,068	13,945	10
1913	158,196	14,510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10–12
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,862	15–20–25
1922	56,348	12,696	25
1923	66,520	20,108	25
1924	95,562	21,290	25*

* Duty reduced to 20% on 27th November, 1924.

(*b*) EXPORTS.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £1,711,438, as compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,607,225 in 1923. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel; such value includes export duty, cost of packages and all charges incidental to shipment. In reports previous to that for 1922 export duty was not included in such values.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony	£ 1,376,603	£ 1,347,115	£ 1,510,353
Coal	—	104,794	63,036
Other British and Foreign Produce Manufactures ..	113,685	95,896	97,346
Specie	240,964	59,420	40,703
Total	£1,731,252	£1,607,225	£1,711,438

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Ginger (cwt.)	26,605	27,905	38,847
Hides (cwt.)	132	202	206
Kola Nuts (lb.)	6,044,926	5,698,703	5,686,066
Palm Kernels (tons)	49,029	59,545	61,117
Palm Oil (tons)	2,076	3,346	3,110
Pepper (lb.)	278,516	328,188	247,342
Piassava (tons)	1,355	1,620	995
Rice (bushels)	1,375	259	928

The "balance of trade" figures (excluding both import and export duty) for the past five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	Imports* (Commercial).	Exports* (Commercial).	Balance of Imports over Exports.	Balance of Exports over Imports.
	£	£	£	£
1920	3,175,835	2,916,173	259,662	—
1921	1,335,885	1,312,148	23,737	—
1922	1,229,210	1,180,255	48,955	—
1923	1,421,928	1,472,714	—	50,786
1924	1,451,596	1,597,712	—	146,116

* Excluding Specie.

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 5,686,066 lb., valued at £180,976, as compared with 5,698,703 lb., valued at £187,476 in 1923.

The continued slight decrease is due to the falling away of shipments to the Gambia, consequent upon that Colony's indifferent ground-nut crop for the year which reduced the purchasing power of the native.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that Sierra Leone kolas maintained their hold in the French Senegal and Nigerian markets.

The crop raised was satisfactory and the prices obtained were moderate, averaging £5·55 per measure of 176 lb., as against £4·63 in 1923.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 61,117 tons, being an increase of 1,572 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,096,386, an increase of £127,589 over the 1923 figure. This quantity constitutes a record in the annual export of palm kernels from the Colony. The improvement in the quality of kernels was fully maintained and local prices were high. The United Kingdom absorbed 97·1 per cent. of the kernels exported, the remainder going to Germany. In 1913 Germany took 87·5 per cent., and the United Kingdom 12·5. In 1924 the United Kingdom obtained one-fifth of its palm kernel supply from Sierra Leone. The European market prices for palm kernels were good, averaging £21 a ton, as against £18·75 in 1923. As from 1st December, however, an increase of 50 per cent. was imposed by the Shipping Companies on freight and lighterage charges, which now stand at 37*s*. 6*d*. a ton.

Exports of Palm Kernels since 1912.

	Tons.
1912	50,751
1913	49,201
1914	35,915
1915	39,624
1916	45,316
1917	58,020
1918	40,816
1919	50,622
1920	50,425
1921	40,409
1922	49,029
1923	59,545
1924	61,117

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 3,110 tons, valued at £93,141, as against 3,346 tons, valued at £102,645, in 1923. Although a slight decrease is shown on the 1923 figures this export is well above the average. The amount exported represents only a fraction of the amount produced, as this commodity forms one of the principal articles of diet locally.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last 22 years :—

Palm Kernels.

	£			£	
1903	8·63	per ton	1914	15·52	per ton
1904	8·51	,,	1915	12·72	,,
1905	9·57	,,	1916	15·02	,,
1906	10·88	,,	1917	14·52	,,
1907	12·82	,,	1918	16·74	,,
1908	9·87	,,	1919	23·52	,,
1909	11·25	,,	1920	27·79	,,
1910	14·98	,,	1921	16·95	,,
1911	15·33	,,	1922	17·50	,,
1912	15·63	,,	1923	18·75	,,
1913	18·72	,,	1924	21·00	,,

Palm Oil.

	£			£	
1903	15·09	per ton	1914	21·99	per ton
1904	16·97	,,	1915	23·60	,,
1905	17·33	,,	1916	23·92	,,
1906	18·32	,,	1917	28·72	,,
1907	21·07	,,	1918	32·38	,,
1908	18·53	,,	1919	34·84	,,
1909	18·77	,,	1920	59·63	,,
1910	24·24	,,	1921	40·35	,,
1911	26·73	,,	1922	35·67	,,
1912	23·00	,,	1923	35·75	,,
1913	22·95	,,	1924	39·75	,,

This table shows that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1903, the value during 1920 was altogether abnormal.

The following table gives the average monthly prices in the United Kingdom obtained by palm kernels and palm oil during the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 :—

	Palm Kernels.			Palm Oil.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	17½	18	21	39¼	34	40¼
February ..	18	18¾	20¾	37½	36½	41¼
March.. ..	18¾	20	19¾	45½	38½	40½
April	18½	21½	19¾	42	38½	37¾
May	17¾	19	19½	36	36	35¾
June	17¾	19	21	33	34½	36½
July	17¾	17¾	21	33	33¾	38¼
August ..	17½	17	21	32	33	39
September ..	16¼	18¼	21	31	34¾	39
October ..	16½	18¼	23	32	35½	42½
November ..	17	19	22¾	33½	36½	44
December ..	17¼	20¼	22¾	33½	38	43¾

Ginger.—The export of ginger showed an increase of 10,942 cwt. (£59,397) over the figures for the preceding year. In all 13,641 cwt. were shipped to the United Kingdom, and 24,839 cwt. to the United States of America. The United Kingdom market for Sierra Leone ginger is thus shown to be improving, as in 1923 the United States of America absorbed 87 per cent. of the ginger exports from this Colony. The highest price obtainable was 90*s*. per cwt. for grade A, and 76*s*. for grade B. The year 1924 may be regarded as highly satisfactory as far as ginger is concerned. In 1923 the highest price obtainable was 51*s*. 4*d*. per cwt.

(*c*) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade £1,124,955, or 65 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 74·71 per cent. in 1923; £208,725, or 12·06 per cent., was with the United States of America, as compared with 9·52 in 1923; Foreign West African Possessions £85,325, or 4·93 per cent.

Of the export trade £1,253,892, or 73·27 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £137,556, or 8·04 per cent., to British West African Possessions; and £70,368, or 4·11 per cent. to the United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade, and only 13·29 per cent. of the export, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

(*d*) SHIPPING.

A further increase of 196,379 tons took place in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year, though the actual number of vessels showed a decrease of 35 on the 1923 figure. British shipping absorbed almost the whole of this increase in tonnage, and appropriated 70·20 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels entered. American vessels entered showed an increase of 11,468 tons, Dutch vessels entered increased by 25,937 tons, thus taking second place to British vessels and displacing German vessels which occupied this position in 1923. Italian and French shipping increased by 22,829 and 4,743 tons respectively; but German, Swedish, Norwegian and Portuguese showed decreases of 35,022, 14,156, 16,583 and 2,858 tons respectively.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the years 1923 and 1924 :—

Vessels entered.

	1923.		1924.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	635	1,552,488	619	1,659,960	—	107,472	16	—
Sherbro ..	2	1,863	2	77	—	—	—	1,786
Mano Salija	5	6,343	—	—	—	—	5	6,343
Sulima ..	1	1,411	1	1,419	—	8	—	—
Total ..	643	1,562,105	622	1,661,456	—	99,351	21	—

Vessels cleared.

	1923.		1924.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	631	1,549,144	607	1,630,442	—	81,298	24	—
Sherbro ..	4	4,452	7	15,229	3	10,777	—	—
Mano Salija	2	1,415	7	7,323	5	5,908	—	—
Sulima ..	1	4,020	3	3,065	2	—	—	955
Total ..	638	1,559,031	624	1,656,059	—	97,028	14	—

IV. Legislation.

No less than forty-eight Ordinances were passed during the year 1924. The reason for this largely increased number of enactments is to be found in the revision and consolidation of the Ordinances of the Colony and Protectorate undertaken by the Attorney General. A large number of amending Ordinances were passed before the end of the year in order that the revised edition might be as complete and up-to-date as possible, and also to enable a legislative " moratorium " to be enjoyed during the early months of 1925 when the revision would be nearing completion.

The more important Ordinances of the year were as follows :—

No. 1 of 1924.—" The Liquor Ordinance," defining the classes of spirituous liquors admissible to the Colony.

No. 9 of 1924.—" The Passport Ordinance," rendering the carriage of passports obligatory on persons entering the Colony.

No. 13 of 1924.—" The Wild Animals, Birds and Fish Preservation (Amendment) Ordinance."

No. 17 of 1924.—" The Undesirable Persons (Prevention of Immigration) Ordinance."

No. 19 of 1924.—" The Education Ordinance," revising and consolidating the law in regard to the promotion of Education.

No. 20 of 1924.—" The Aliens Registration Ordinance."

No. 24 of 1924.—" The Protectorate (Amendment) Ordinance," defining the limits of territory to be regarded as Protectorate territory.

No. 25 of 1924.—" The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance," making further provision for the Customs and Trade of the Colony and Protectorate.

No. 26 of 1924.—" The Petroleum Ordinance," providing for the importation, conveyance and storage of petroleum and other inflammable oils, etc.

No. 30 of 1924.—" The Native Produce (Standardization and Grading) Ordinance."

No. 48 of 1924.—" The Customs Tariff Ordinance," revising and consolidating the law relative to Customs duties.

V. Lands and Forests.

The Lands and Forests Department was formed in 1922 when the former Agricultural and Forestry Departments ceased to exist as separate departments and became divisions of the new Department.

A Division of Research has been added during the year, and a chemical laboratory has been fitted up in the new Lands and Forests Office, which is stated to be the most up-to-date of its kind on the West Coast. An agricultural chemist has been appointed in charge of this division, and took up his duties in September. The special work being undertaken by this division is a soil survey of the country, investigations with oil palm products, piassava and the many other products of the country.

An entomologist has also been appointed and arrived in June, his salary being defrayed out of a grant made by the Colonial Research Committee. He is now engaged on a tsetse fly survey of the Colony and Protectorate, and in collecting information respecting the various insect pests affecting the crops of the country.

Sierra Leone took part in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and the Lands and Forests Department undertook, with the aid of all the Political Officers, the collection of exhibits for display in the Sierra Leone Pavilion. The Commissioner of Lands and Forests was appointed Exhibition Commissioner for Sierra Leone and spent most of the year at Wembley. The Sierra Leone Pavilion, although small in size, was generally acclaimed one of the most attractive at Wembley. The Walled City of West Africa, with the Nigerian, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone Pavilions and African Village attracted large crowds of visitors.

The Division of Agriculture carried out, as usual, a large programme of experiments at its central experiment station, Njala.

This Division, for administrative purposes, is divided into provinces and districts according to the political divisions, and a provincial superintendent of agriculture is being placed in charge of each province and a trained native agricultural assistant in charge of each district. The most important work undertaken in the provinces during the year is the encouragement of the cultivation by the people of economic crops as follows :—

Swamp Rice.—The cultivation of swamp rice has been followed in the Skarsies region of the Northern Province for some fifty years or so. Now this is being undertaken in the Southern Province and the inland swamps of the Central Province. The cultivation of swamp rice is extending, and it is hoped that the production will, in a few years, be considerable. Seed rice has been distributed free, and large areas of what has hitherto been considered waste and uncultivable land has been brought under cultivation.

Cocoa.—The cultivation of cocoa, particularly in the Southern Province, has been extended during the year. Nurseries have been established at most villages by agricultural assistants, under the direction of the Commissioner of the Southern Province, and during the year some one hundred and eleven plots were planted up with cocoa on plantation lines. Within a few years the export of cocoa should be appreciable.

Coconuts.—A scheme for encouraging the cultivation of coconuts in the littoral belt of the Southern Province was commenced last year and continued during the year with increased activity. Seed nuts were purchased by the Government and given to the natives. During the year 26,000 seed nuts were planted in 112 nurseries, which raises the total of seed nuts planted since 1923 to 35,000. During the year 4,300 young palms raised in 1923 were planted out in 47 small plots.

Cotton.—A special effort was made during the year to establish the cultivation of American cotton. Some 5 tons of Allen's Long Staple cotton seed was imported from Nigeria and distributed to the Chiefs and people in the Northern and Central Provinces. The crop was unfortunately almost ruined by the heavy rains which fell at the time the crop was ripening, and it was in consequence nearly everywhere a failure. The British Cotton Growing Association presented the Government with a ginning and baling plant, which was erected at Boia Junction towards the end of the year, and opened by His Excellency. Altogether twenty-one bales were produced and shipped. The experiments are being continued both with imported and indigenous cotton.

Ginger.—The production of ginger has increased considerably, and the price was exceptionally high, which made for a successful year. Some 38,847 cwt. were exported valued at £105,633. The cultivation has now been taken up in the Northern Province and increased production may be expected in 1925 owing to the good prices paid this year.

Other crops which have been encouraged are maize, coffee, castor beans, ground-nuts, sisal, Mauritius hemp and tomatoes (for export).

The Division of Forests has continued its work of reservation, and during the year the total area of protected forest (including reserves and restricted areas) has been brought up to 604·45 square miles.

The Division is now divided into four working circles and an Assistant Conservator is in charge of each circle. The Eastern Circle supplied the Railway during the year with some 35,984 board feet of timber. The Western Circle opened the gum-copal forests for tapping in 1923, and the collection of the gum took place in 1924.

Inspection of Produce.—The inspection of produce has been continued and the Inspector spent some time in touring the Protectorate instructing the people in the better preparation of crops for the market. There was a decrease in the number of cases in the contravention of the Native Produce Ordinance, which is satisfactory, as it shows that greater care is being taken in the preparation of produce for the market.

During the year an Agricultural Show was held at Sembehun in the Southern Province, and was, as the previous Provincial Shows have been, a distinct success.

Agricultural Instruction.—A scheme for the training of Agricultural apprentices and the senior pupils of the Njala College was inaugurated in January under the management of an

European Agricultural Instructor, but received a set back owing to the untimely and accidental death of the Instructor. His successor was appointed in October, and with his arrival, and the erection of a laboratory and library, the work was in full progress again by the end of the year.

The Department acquired, during the year, a commodious building in the central part of Freetown for its offices, and provision is being made for a Museum to contain a reference collection of the products of the country, to be arranged in a suitable manner so that visitors to Sierra Leone can obtain an idea of the resources of the country, and pupils of the schools can make the Museum a profitable place for study.

VI. Education.

GENERAL.

The Colony is well provided with both elementary and secondary schools; there is considerable educational activity in the Protectorate, but much yet remains to be done there.

I. COLONY.

The Government Educational Institutions in the Colony at the end of the year comprised the Model School, Freetown, the elementary schools at Wilberforce, Waterloo and Benguema. On the opening of the Government Secondary School at King Tom, referred to hereafter, it is intended to convert the Model School into a Training College for Teachers. At the end of the year the Model School had 301 boys and 63 girls on its roll.

The following schedule gives details of all elementary schools in the Colony and Protectorate in receipt of Government assistance :—

Schools.	No.	Number on Roll.	Average attendance.
Government	15	1,309	1,044
Church of England	36	2,888	2,202
Wesleyan Methodist	29	2,591	1,682
Roman Catholic	8	1,203	846
United Brethren in Christ ..	15	883	594
United Methodist	11	860	580
Mohammedan	5	732	428
Countess of Huntingdon ..	3	164	108
United Brethren in Africa ..	2	135	105
American Methodist Episcopal	2	104	81
American Wesleyan	2	78	75
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1	45	29
Total	129	10,992	7,774

Secondary Schools.

There are eleven secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Model School. Of these, four are assisted schools. The four assisted schools received £920 in Government grants.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham), the Grammar School, the Wesleyan Boys' High School and the Albert Academy for boys, the Annie Walsh School and the Wesleyan Girls' High School for Girls.

The old naval victualling station at King Tom was converted into a Government secondary school for boys but was not opened before the end of the year. The curriculum will include the subjects required for the Cambridge Examinations for Junior and Senior Certificates, with a distinct bias towards science, a subject which is at present not fully provided for by the other secondary schools.

Examinations were held for all schools for the Elementary and Intermediate Examinations; but the future holding of these examinations has been abolished under a new Education Ordinance and Code passed in 1924.

Examinations are held for the Cambridge Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year :—

	Entered.	*Passed.*
Preliminary	29	22
Junior Certificate	36	24
School Certificate	16	7

Trade Schools.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones' Trades School was opened in 1920; it is partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government grant.

II. PROTECTORATE.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are :—

(1) The Bo School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs.
(2) The Agricultural College, Njala.
(3) Bumpe School.
(4) Baiima School.
(5) Gbangbama School.
(6) Gambia School

and six vernacular schools referred to in a subsequent paragraph.

The Bo School has 154 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

Njala Agricultural College is a boarding school in the Central Province and has 110 boys on the roll. It was founded for the purpose of training teachers with a practical knowledge of agriculture to take charge of small vernacular schools throughout the Protectorate, and it operates in conjunction with the Government Experimental Station at Njala. The year 1923 saw the first fruits of the College's work in that six vernacular schools were built and staffed with old pupils of the College; at all of these steady progress was made throughout the year 1924.

The Bumpe School had an average attendance of 57 boys, the Baiima School of 18.

VII. Government Departments and Institutions.

(*a*) Hospitals and Asylums.

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire early in 1920 and all records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new hospital, which was nearing completion by the end of 1921, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

A portion of the new hospital (known as the Connaught Hospital) was completed in 1922, consisting of three blocks of two wards each, operating theatre, kitchen, laundry, fumigating block and staff latrine and bath block.

In addition to the above the new hospital was planned to comprise three more blocks of wards, quarters for the resident surgeon and nursing sisters, offices and stores. No work on these additions was undertaken in 1924 but a resumption is contemplated at the beginning of 1926.

Patients admitted to the Colonial Hospital numbered 1,862, and there were 129 deaths; 71 operations were performed. 263 patients were admitted to the Maternity Ward, Colonial Hospital; this is the largest number for this ward.

At the Connaught Hospital 10,955 outpatients were treated, the total attendances being 49,430.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, 43 were admitted during the year and 14 died, the total number treated during the year being 144. The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

There were 47 admissions to the Kissy Infimaries during the year; a total of 315 cases were treated; there were 62 deaths.

European Hospital.—There were 150 admissions, 50 being Government officials. Two non-officials died. At the end of the year the European Hospital was transferred from Freetown to Hill Station and housed in a building formerly used as the Governor's Lodge.

(*b*) POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits numbered 8,189 and amounted to £21,902 5*s*. 9*d*., showing an increase of 282 in number and of £708 4*s*. 1*d*. in value when compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 4,563 and amounted to £26,194, showing an increase of 156 in number and a decrease £543 18*s*. 9*d*. in value in comparison with the figures for 1923.

The average value of each deposit was £2 3*s*. 6*d*., and of each withdrawal £5 14*s*. 10*d*., as against £2 13*s*. 7*d*. and £6 1*s*. 10*d*. in the previous year.

During the year, 1,154 accounts were opened and 1,189 closed, showing a net decrease of 35. At the end of the year the names of 5,001 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £62,309 19*s*. 3½*d*. The average value of each account was, at the close of the year, £12 9*s*. 2*d*.

The total sum invested is £61,575 18*s*. 4*d*. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,321 2*s*. 1*d*. The interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,431 5*s*. 4*d*.

(*c*) PORT AND MARINE.

The most important work of the Port and Marine Department during 1924 was the clearance of a channel on the Great Scarcies River between Tawiya and Kambia. The work was not entirely completed by the end of the year, but there is now a channel capable of taking vessels with a 6 foot draught and beacons have been erected to assist its navigation.

VIII. Judicial Statistics.

(*a*) POLICE.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1924 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, three Inspectors and three African Sub-Inspectors and 311 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The health of the force was not improved during the year. There was an outbreak of "Coryza" which, though not severe, affected a great number of men. There were three deaths during the year to none in the previous year.

The following table shows the cases reported and arrests made in 1923 and 1924 :—

Year.	Cases reported.	Arrests made.	Convictions.	Percentage convictions to arrests.
1923	2,370	2,362	1,897	80·03
1924	2,510	2,363	1,895	80·02

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the two years :—

	1923.	1924.
Murder	2	2
House-breaking	14	17
Burglary	13	33
Shop-breaking	2	3
Rape	5	8
Larceny	316	391
Receiving	52	65

(*b*) FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the City Council. There was no serious outbreak of fire during the year, but there were eight fires, the total value of property destroyed being about £45, none of which was covered by insurance.

(*c*) PRISONS.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923.	1924.
Males	990	1,130
Females	20	14
Juveniles	30	46

The continued increase in the number of juvenile offenders is unsatisfactory and a Special Committee considered the matter, and it is hoped that their recommendations may result in active measures being taken to deal with the question.

The increase in the number of prisoners convicted during 1924 is due, in some measure, to the activity of the Police Department, particularly the Criminal Investigation Branch. Criminals in this country seldom work alone, and it is now quite common for as many as three, and even four, persons to be charged in connection with one offence, and a conviction follows in most cases.

The general health was very good. There was no epidemic and for the first time in the history of the Prison there was not a single case of Beri-Beri—new or recurrent. This state of affairs has to a great extent been attributed to the changes in the methods of cooking the food and the use of fresh vegetables provided from the Prison Farm. There were 188 admissions to hospital during the year and 10 deaths. The diseases in the cases of the deaths were not in any of the cases contracted in the Prison.

In the Protectorate prisons 799 persons were committed to prison in 1924 as compared with 783 in 1923, the daily average for the year being 161.

(*d*) Criminal Statistics.

In the Supreme Court of the Colony 65 persons were convicted—7 for larceny, 40 for other offences against property, as compared with 34 in 1923, of which 19 were for offences against property.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate 38 persons were convicted, of which 2 were for murder, 1 for manslaughter, and 33 for other offences against the peace, as compared with 12 in 1923, of which 4 were for other offences against the peace.

In the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 2,294 persons were convicted summarily, 587 being for larceny and 1,103 for offences against revenue laws and kindred laws, as compared with 2,612 convictions in 1923, 501 for larceny, and 1,588 for offences against revenue laws.

In the District Commissioner's Court at Waterloo there were 180 convictions, 81 being for larceny, as against 120 in 1923, of which 40 were for praedial larceny.

IX. Vital Statistics.

(*a*) European Population.

The number of European residents during 1924 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	198
Non-Officials*	420
Military	486

(* This figure includes white Americans.)

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 164, as compared with 102 in 1923. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans from climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Total.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic	Non-Climatic	Clim.	Non-Clim.	
1912	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918*	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923†	—	—	4	1	2	—	7
1924	1	—	3	2	2	—	8

(*b*) POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Population 1921 Census.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.
Freetown	44,142	22·2	25·9	321
Colony other than Freetown.	41,021	20·1	19·2	261

Owing to the non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the Infantile Mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it really is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and "Infant Welfare" work is being undertaken on an increasing scale with a view to reducing it. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(*c*) SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was not in quarantine during the year. Quarantine was declared against ports in the Canary Islands, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and Dahomey, owing to yellow fever and plague. Two cases of smallpox were reported in Freetown, and there were 10 cases in the Protectorate. Chicken-pox was fairly frequent both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

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* Influenza epidemic.

† (1923) Two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour, in addition to the above ; one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

(*d*) RECORD OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

	1924.	1923.	1922.
Number vaccinated	9,636	21,517	26,448
,, successful	4,925	10,294	9,795
,, unsuccessful	2,052	4,266	6,302
,, not inspected	2,659	6,957	10,351

Three cases of anthrax in cattle were reported in Freetown, and dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

There was a marked reduction in the incidence of dysentery in Freetown, only 42 cases being reported as against 138 in 1923.

Tuberculosis appears to be increasing, and a committee was appointed towards the end of the year to make recommendations for dealing with this problem.

There were no cases of diphtheria, influenza, or cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The Superintendent of Freetown Water Works reports that there was no shortage of water during the year. The average daily consumption was 425,530 gallons.

The Sanitary Department purchased and destroyed 12,708 rats, paying for them at the rate of 1*d*. each.

(*e*) CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70°. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95°, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. It is not always damp—speaking generally, there are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunder-storms known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 ft. above sea level, for the past 40 years are now available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands.

Average Rainfall, Freetown (Tower Hill).

Period.	Average Rainfall.
1882–1891	166·07
1892–1901	165·15
1902–1911	156·00
1912–1921	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 in. in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 in. in 1914.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east Trades, and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in 1924 was 149·67 in.; this almost reaches the average for the past 40 years (152·47 in.).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 6·05 in. on 21st September. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 62 deg. on 6th January: the highest, 94 deg., on 5th and 8th January, 3rd March and 2nd May.

(*f*) CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis and golf. As the country is hilly, cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; but for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as good English meat, but when properly cooked is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

A cold storage plant, from which fresh meat and fish, game, etc., can be procured, has been started by one of the European firms in Freetown.

(*g*) POPULATION (COLONY AND PROTECTORATE).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) has increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902-1911 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1902-1911 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population *see* "Political Administration."

X. Postal, Telegraphs and Telephones.

(*a*) POSTAL.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 41. Money Order business was transacted at 18 offices and Postal Order business at 32.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,617,238, as compared with 1,493,981 in 1923. The total was made up as follows :—

	Letters, Postcards, and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured	Ordinary	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	370,112	11,772	14,745	2,041
Despatched to United Kingdom	173,491	20,981	2,249	125
Received from West African Colonies	123,115	16,621	5,908	9
Despatched to West African Colonies	108,528	9,912	1,385	18
Internal	711,134	33,509	11,583	—

The Money Order transactions numbered 6,417 and amounted to £60,960, showing an increase of 590 in number, and an increase of £6,754 in value, when compared with the figures of the previous year.

Money Orders.	1924. Number.	1924. Amount.	1923. Number.	1923. Amount.
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom..	391	2,138	363	1,621
Despatched to United Kingdom..	1,905	13,699	1,961	14,162
Received from West African Colonies	750	9,221	590	6,945
Despatched to West African Colonies	478	5,641	406	4,470
Inland	2,893	30,291	2,507	27,088
Total	6,417	60,990	5,827	54,286

Postal Orders issued numbered 50,844 and amounted to £34,158, as compared with 44,183 to the value of £30,218 in 1923. 43,650 Orders, amounting to £31,212, were paid, an increase of 5,198 in number and £3,412 in value, when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The Postal Revenue totalled £11,952, showing a decrease of £959 as compared with 1923. The customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £8,135, and stamps to the value of £3,417 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £17,570, which shows an increase of £24 when compared with the figures of 1923.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles from Freetown). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano on the railway there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengama to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a motor-boat service, and from Sengama there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles). A branch line of about 3 miles was constructed from Loawa, on the Sumbuya-Bendu line in the Southern Province, to Mattru.

From Songo (on the railway) there is a telephone to Port Lokko. During the year this line was extended on a northerly direction through Mange to the trading centre of Kambia. There is thus now a through line from Songo to Kambia.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1923 and 1924 (exclusive of messages sent on railway service) was :—

	1923.	1924.
Public Telegrams	43,524	45,506
Government Telegrams ...	12,447	18,299

The revenue from telegrams was £5,500, as compared with £4,127 in 1923.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and sent through the office in Freetown of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown with 90 subscribers, of which 30 are Government offices and quarters, 23 are railway offices and 35 private subscribers.

The telephone revenue in 1924 amounted to £1,334 and the maintenance cost £908.

XI. Communications.

(*a*) RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½	Main Line. Water Street to Pendembu.
104	Branch Line. Boia to Kamabai.
5½	Hill Station Line.
1	Branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.
338	

Approximately 17 miles of sidings at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1924, was £1,698,668.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
General Revenue	168,418	189,297	219,045
Expenditure	90,155	183,205	198,307

The amount of revenue collected during the year constitutes a record. The expenditure includes an item of £41,736 for extraordinary works, which exceeds the corresponding item of 1923 by £13,306. The actual increase in working expenses amounted to £1,796.

	1913.	1923.	1924.
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ..	114·11	99·26	113·79
Working expenses per train-mile (in pence)	61·09	96·07	93·96
Passengers carried	438,388	583,290	543,918

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 46 engines, 77 coaching vehicles and 343 goods vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 68,493 tons, as compared with 61,200 in 1923 and 62,084 in 1913.

(*b*) ROADS.

The following table gives the particulars of the first-class motor roads constructed or under construction in the Protectorate at the end of the year 1924.

Roads.	Total mileage.	Mileage formation completed December 1924.	Mileage permanently bridged.	Mileage temporarily bridged for motors (native stick bridges).
Kumrabai-Bo-Pujehun ..	**107**	**98½** (*c*)	43 (*a*)	31 (*b*)
Boadgibu-Blama-Panguma	62½ (*d*)	**62½** (*d*)	**44** (*e*)	**18½**
Segbwema-Bandajuma ..	**26**	24	16	10
Pendembu-Kailahun-Mofindo	**24**	**24**	24	—
Moyamba-Sembehun ..	19	19	**18**	—
Sumbuya-Koribundu ..	21	21	21	—
Koribundu-Blama ..	27	2	—	2
Total	**286½**	**251**	**166**	**61½**

These roads serve as feeders by motor transport for the important railway centres, Pendembu, Blama, Segbwema, Hangha, Bo and Moyamba.

It has been reckoned that a first-class road with permanent bridges costs about £800 a mile to construct. Experiments are being made with bridges of specially selected sawn timbers. It is estimated that such bridges should last for at least four or five years, and that they should cost a very great deal less than concrete bridges.

(*c*) WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought to Freetown and Bonthe by three waterways, and steps are being taken to open them up further. During 1924 a considerable amount of work was done in opening up and buoying the waterways in the Sherbro River, the Port Lokko Creek and the Scarcies River (*vide* " Port and Marine ").

(*a*) Bo-Mandu 18 miles. Bo to Koribundu 22 miles.

(*b*) Koribundu-Pujehun 26 miles. Mandu towards Mongheri 8 miles.

(*c*) Bo-Pujehun 48 miles. Bo towards Mongheri 27½ miles. Between Mongheri and Kumrabai 24 miles.

(*d*) Boadgibu-Blama 24 miles. Blama-Hangha 19 miles. Hangha-Panguma 20 miles.

(*e*) Boadgibu-Blama 24 miles. Hangha-Panguma 20 miles.

XII. Public Works.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Foremost among these were :—

(*a*) The completion of the foreshore protective works along the western side of the new Colonial Hospital. This was begun in 1922 in consequence of the landslide, which threatened the stability of the Hospital site.
(*b*) Conversion of Governor's Lodge, Hill Station, into a European Hospital.
(*c*) The conversion of an old building at King Tom into a Government Secondary School.
(*d*) New female ward, Kissy Asylum.
(*e*) Outfall drains at Oxford and Savage Streets, Freetown.
(*f*) Alterations and repairs to Lands and Forests Department Offices.
(*g*) Panguma water supply (to be completed in 1925).
(*h*) Additional buildings at Bo School.

XIII. Freetown City Council.

The City Council of Freetown, a partly elected and partly nominated body, is charged with the lighting of the streets of the city, the licensing and control of parks, markets, slaughter houses, etc., the administration of the water supply, and the maintenance and control of the Fire Brigade. It also is the licensing authority for vehicles and for certain classes of licensable occupations.

The main sources of the Council's revenue are estimated for 1924–25 at :—

	£
Water Supply and Rates	9,347
City Rates, Licences, etc.	8,268

Its total estimated expenditure for the year 1924–25 is £19,555.

The annual value of rateable hereditaments in Freetown has risen from £56,480 in 1916–18 to £85,556 in 1924–25.

XIV. Political Administration.

(*a*) COLONY.

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in the vicinity, Sherbro and York Islands and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone Peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island and Turner's Peninsula, although Colony, are administered as Protectorate*, and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

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* Except an area of 10 sq. miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (*a*) the Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (*b*) the Headquarters District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Islands, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters District (as well as the District Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (*i.e.*, of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows :—

District.	Area. sq. miles.	Population.
Police (including Freetown) ...	50	56,980
Headquarters	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281

(*b*) PROTECTORATE.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Northern and Central Provinces are each sub-divided into four districts, and the Southern Province into five, under District Commissioners.

The area and population of each District are as follows :—

	Sq. miles.	Approximate Native Population.
Northern Province.		
Port Lokko (Headquarters Port Lokko)	2,160	153,300
Batkanu (Headquarters Batkanu) ...	2,940	154,600
Bombali (Headquarters Makene) ...	3,300	173,350
Koinadugu (Headquarters Kaballa) ...	5,450	85,700
Central Province.		
Moyamba (Headquarters Moyamba) ...	1,540	100,696
Konno (Headquarters Panguma) ...	2,400	167,450
Kennema (Headquarters Kennema) ...	2,190	168,531
Pendembu (Headquarters Pendembu)...	1,440	151,591
Southern Province.		
Gbangbama (Headquarters Gbangbama)	1,620	69,500
Sumbuya (Headquarters Sumbuya) ...	1,030	98,758
Pujehun (Headquarters Pujehun) ...	1,140	97,273
Mano River (Headquarters Zimmi) ...	890	
Bonthe (Headquarters Bonthe) ...	880	32,154
	26,980	1,450,903

The total European Political Staff consists of only 27 European officers, five or six of whom are usually on leave.

The remaining 22 officers administer an area of 26,980 square miles; in other words, on an average each officer is in charge of some 1,230 square miles. To help him he has a clerk and, may be, about a dozen members of the Court Messenger Force, a disciplined body of Protectorate natives performing, in the Protectorate, such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties that the exigencies of the Protectorate administration demand.

XV. West African Frontier Force.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms part of the West African Frontier Force, the other component parts of which are the Nigeria Regiment, the Gold Coast Regiment and the Gambia Company.

The Battalion has its Headquarters at Daru in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, a town on the Main Line of the Railway, some 214 miles from Freetown. One Company is stationed at Makene in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, an important trading centre on the Branch line of the Railway, 148 miles from Freetown.

Imperial Institute.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1924 FOR SIERRA LEONE.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS AND ENQUIRIES.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government Officers were furnished to the Government of Sierra Leone during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. Copies of the reports were also supplied to the Exhibition Commissioner at Wembley at his request for use in the Information Bureau in the Sierra Leone Pavilion, where many of the products were displayed.

Information relating to Sierra Leone products was supplied to enquirers.

Palm Oil.—Five samples of oil obtained from various commercial sources in Sierra Leone were forwarded for examination in connection with complaints which had been received by the Lands and Forests Department that shipments of palm oil from the Colony had been found to contain large quantities of water, the presence of which could not be detected when buying the oil. It was also stated to be the practice in certain parts of the Colony to adulterate the oil with substances such as pounded mangrove bark and native-prepared potash, and information as to the presence of such adulterants in the samples forwarded was desired. The examination of the samples at the Imperial Institute indicated that four of them contained excessive percentages of water, but that the oils were otherwise unadulterated.

Information was also furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the standards of purity recognised in the United Kingdom for palm oil, and the methods of determining the amounts of moisture and impurities. Particulars of suitable processes for testing palm oil, and of the apparatus required, were also supplied.

Kogai or Egusi Seed.—This seed is used by the natives as food, and a report on its nutritive value was desired. The examination of the sample showed that the seeds contain good percentages of fat and proteins and should therefore be of value as a foodstuff, especially in admixture with materials rich in carbohydrates.

This Kogai seed was stated to be derived from a plant belonging to the Cucurbitaceae and it resembles the seeds of *Citrullus vulgaris*. Several samples of the latter seed from West Africa have been examined at the Imperial Institute, and it has been shown that they would find a market in the United Kingdom as a source of oil. The Kogai seed yielded about the same quantity of oil as the *C. vulgaris* seed, and the oil was of similar character.

If offered in commercial quantities Kogai seeds would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom, and would realise about £17 to £18 per ton delivered in the United Kingdom (May, 1924). It was suggested by the Imperial Institute that the possibility of producing the seed for export might be considered.

Kola Nuts.—At the request of the Exhibition Commissioner at Wembley the possibility of finding an outlet in the United Kingdom for fresh kola nuts was investigated. The results were not very promising, but it was suggested that it might be worth while to forward a trial consignment of the fresh nuts to this country to test the market.

Gum Copal.—In connection with a proposal to increase the production of Sierra Leone copal by planting the trees on an extensive scale in new areas, information was furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the demand in the United Kingdom for West African copal obtained by tapping living trees, as distinct from the " fossil " variety. Suggestions were also made as to the possibility of cleaning and grading the resin in the Colony in future.

Monkey Apple Wood (*Anisophylla laurina*).—In continuation of the investigation referred to in the statement for 1923 a consignment of monkey apple (" Kondi " or " Kanti ") wood was forwarded in order that its commercial possibilities in the United Kingdom might be ascertained. Mechanical and working tests were carried out at the Institute, and specimens were submitted to timber merchants and to manufacturers of furniture and brushes. The wood has a highly ornamental figure, but is rather heavy and has a great tendency to " check," even when carefully dried. The timber merchants were of opinion that it would only be suitable for special purposes, and that in these circumstances it is unlikely that firms would interest themselves in the timber or stock it against possible sales. The furniture manufacturers reported that the wood was too heavy and dense for their purposes, and the brushmakers also offered the same opinion, adding that the liability of the wood to split in manufacture would prevent it from " making up " satisfactorily for brush backs. The prospects of finding a market for Monkey Apple wood in the United Kingdom are therefore not promising.

Elephant Grass.—A sample of Elephant grass, forwarded for report as to its suitability for paper-making, was considerably stouter than the African Elephant grass previously examined at the Imperial Institute, and was probably of older growth. This grass has been found to yield a readily bleachable pulp, producing strong paper of good quality, and the Sierra Leone sample, although thicker and therefore needing more drastic treatment than usual, gave similar results. Specimens of the paper produced in the trials were supplied for exhibition in the Sierra Leone Pavilion at Wembley.

Mangrove Bark.—The examination of a sample of mangrove bark showed that, although containing rather more tannin than is usually found in West African bark, it was much inferior to the commercial East African product. Such bark would not be worth exportation, but could be used for tanning in Sierra Leone or for the manufacture of mangrove extract.

Dyestuffs.—A sample of turmeric resembled the Indian product in general appearance, but the "fingers" were smaller, and commercial experts were of opinion that it would probably be difficult to dispose of supplies of similar character in the United Kingdom. In reporting on this product, the Institute suggested that a trial consignment might be forwarded to test the market.

Samples of " Njala-wawai " leaves (*Lonchocarpus sp.*), which are used by the natives as a source of indigo dye, were forwarded in order that their value in comparison with true indigo might be determined. They were found to be identical with a sample of " Gara " from Sierra Leone which was investigated at the Imperial Institute some years ago.

The material appears to contain an unstable indigo-yielding constituent which is readily converted into indigo when the leaves are dried. The present sample contained about 1 per cent. of actual indigo, but no indican or other indigo-yielding constituent could be detected. The leaves would be of no value in the United Kingdom and could only serve for the preparation of indigo in Sierra Leone.

At the request of the Exhibition Commissioner specimens of cotton and woollen yarn were dyed at the Imperial Institute with crude indigo prepared from the leaves, and were displayed in the Sierra Leone Pavilion at Wembley.

Soil.—A sample of soil upon which it was proposed to plant cotton and maize was examined at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Forests. Recommendations were made as to the manurial treatment required.

Ndawei Bark.—A sample of Ndawei bark (*Parinarium excelsum*), which is used by various tribes in Sierra Leone for medicinal purposes, was examined, but no evidence was obtained of the presence of any constituents likely to render the bark of interest in European medicine.

Fibre.—A sample of Ningei fibre (*Dracaena Mannii*) was found to be of short staple and somewhat brittle, and not of much commercial value. The preparation of the fibre for export is unlikely to prove remunerative.

Cotton.—Reports were furnished on the quality and commercial value in the United Kingdom of samples of Allen's Long Staple cotton grown experimentally at various localities in the Northern Province. The cotton was on the whole of good quality, but rather irregular in length. Such cotton would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom at a price 1*d.* or 2*d.* per lb. in advance of that of " fully good middling " American cotton.

Cocoa.—Information was supplied to a firm of merchants as to the cause of the defective condition of samples of cocoa from the Sherbro District.

Cassava.—The names of firms manufacturing machinery suitable for grating cassava were supplied to the Exhibition Commissioner.

British Empire Exhibition.

The Imperial Institute was allotted space in H.M. Government Pavilion at Wembley for an exhibit to illustrate its work in promoting the utilisation of the raw materials of the Empire. The nature and scope of the investigations carried out were indicated by selected examples from each of the principal groups of raw materials, and the following products from Sierra Leone were included :—

> Oil Palm products; Monkey Apple and Pooli timbers; Cotton; Gorli seed and fat, and also chaulmoogric acid made from the fat; Brick and Tile clays, with specimens made in the technical trials at the Institute.

Publications.

The following articles of interest to the Colony were published in the " Bulletin " during the year :—

" Coffee from Sierra Leone."
" Elephant Grass from Sierra Leone."
" The Present Position of Sisal Hemp Cultivation, with Special Reference to the British Empire."

"The Banana and its Cultivation, with Special Reference to the British Empire."

"Cement Manufacture and its Possibilities in the Crown Colonies and Protectorates."

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

No change has been made in the situation or area of the Court during the year.

In connection with the Sierra Leone Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, the Collections staff of the Institute were consulted on various points regarding the display of exhibits and gave assistance and advice.

The following additions to the Court have been received from the Exhibition Commissioner : A kola bly, with packing material and samples of fresh kola nuts; a specimen of the piassava palm illustrating the source of piassava fibre, and samples of the prepared fibre; a collection of prepared specimens of Sierra Leone timbers; samples of cotton and other fibres; ginger; cereals; pulses; native foodstuffs; and miscellaneous products, all of which have been placed on exhibition. In addition, bulk samples of certain products were handed over by the Exhibition Commissioner for the purpose of distribution to enquirers and to schools.

One hundred prints of photographs of Sierra Leone scenes from negatives by Mr. M. T. Dawe have also been received for use in the Court.

Lectures on Sierra Leone, with explanation of the exhibits in the Court, have been given to the public and to parties from schools by the Guide Lecturer and by the officers in charge of the collections. Specimens of Sierra Leone products have been supplied to schools for teaching purposes and to other enquirers. Picture postcard views of Sierra Leone have been placed on sale at the Central Stand.

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No. 1320.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Reports for 1923 *and* 1924 *see Nos.* 1219 *and* 1275, *respectively*
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No. 1320.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925.

Geographical and Historical.

An account of the general geographical features of the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, together with a synopsis of its history, may be found in the Annual General Report for the year 1924.*

A map of the country will be found in the Report for the year 1921.†

I. General.

The year 1925 will always be memorable in the annals of Sierra Leone on account of the visit to this Colony of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness landed on the morning of the 6th April and remained until the following day. During this short visit the Prince completed a very arduous programme of inspections and social engagements, and further endeared himself to the people of this Colony as he has done in every part of His Majesty's Dominions and Colonies that he has visited. The enthusiasm aroused by the privilege of receiving His Royal Highness has never before been equalled in Sierra Leone, and cannot be surpassed.

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise landed in the Colony, for an informal visit of a few hours, on the 11th April.

His Excellency the President of Liberia, Mr. C. D. B. King, accompanied by Mrs. King and members of his Cabinet, paid a visit to this Colony in January, remaining in Freetown from the 22nd to the 25th, when he entrained for Pendembu and thence proceeded to the hinterland of Liberia. His Excellency's visit, which was an official one, did much to cement the friendly relations subsisting between the Republic and Sierra Leone.

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* No. 1275 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.

† No. 1150 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.

The year was in every way most prosperous. The export of palm kernels, the Colony's staple product, exceeded the record figure set up in 1924, the rice harvest was large, and the stabilization of the Colony's finances enabled the Government to embark on a scheme of important and urgently needed public works (cost to be defrayed from surplus balances) that the financial stringency of previous years had rendered impossible of undertaking at an earlier date.

Throughout the year the Government was administered by the Governor, His Excellency Sir Ransford Slater, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

II. Financial.

(*a*) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £945,581, as compared with £868,319 in 1924, and exceeded the original Estimate by £120,362.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1924 and 1925.

	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*
	£	£	£
Customs	317,463	480,733	539,299
Light Dues	6,938	10,747	12,597
Licences and Internal Revenue	79,745	14,827	16,290
*House Tax Receipts	—	59,973	60,162
Fees of Court	17,853	24,457	24,464
Post Office	14,487	11,953	13,135
Rents	417	577	474
Interest	12,324	10,378	15,076
Miscellaneous	1,821	34,815	32,167
Railway	167,305	219,046	231,889
Land Sales	30	813	28
Totals...	£618,383	£868,319	£945,581

* Previously shown under "Licences and Internal Revenue."

At the end of 1923 there was a certain degree of overstocking, but the decrease in Customs revenue in 1924 was largely accounted for by the reduction of import duty on provisions from 25 per cent. to 12½ per cent. in December, 1923, and the abolition of the export duty on palm oil and gum copal in December, 1923.

The increase under "Railway" is an index of enhanced trade prosperity.

(b) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £843,320, compared with £777,790 in 1924, and was less than the original Estimate by £8,728.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1924 and 1925:—

	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	61,574	83,076	83,018
Pensions	8,228	38,232	40,131
Governor and Legislature ...	6,443	6,804	6,909
Colonial Secretary's Department	8,190	17,407	20,049
Provincial Administration ...	33,877	56,003	61,079
Treasury	4,813	8,636	8,930
Customs Department	14,683	20,977	21,728
Audit	3,051	4,300	4,460
Port and Marine Department ...	3,289	3,525	4,265
Legal Departments	11,670	15,320	15,295
Civil Police	10,082	22,798	22,741
Prisons	8,633	15,184	13,934
Medical Department	30,048	42,671	51,044
Sanitary	8,951	17,978	17,775
Education	13,296	28,439	30,766
Post Office	12,124	17,570	17,597
West African Frontier Force ...	40,638	35,217	36,700
Railway Department	146,060	156,544	157,819
Agricultural	2,842	—	—
Forestry	3,584	—	—
*Lands and Forests	—	22,590	28,707
Miscellaneous Services	23,914	28,349	42,939
Protectorate Roads Department (now under P.W.D.)	7,558	—	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads)	13,622	25,033	28,950
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads)	18,897	42,328	46,470
Public Works Extraordinary ...	58,856	25,398	53,322
Extraordinary Works, Railway	—	43,411	21,226
Survey of Colony and Protectorate	228	—	—
Railway Construction	48,999	—	—
Freetown Water Works... ...	6,657	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special)	11,632	—	—
Surveys	—	—	6,747
Electric Lighting of Freetown ...	—	—	208
Depreciation of Investments ...	—	—	511
Totals	£622,439	£777,790	£843,320

* Previously shown under "Agricultural" and "Forestry."

(*c*) LOAN EXPENDITURE.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 (raised before the War) amounted to £942,826. Of this, £494,565 was spent on the redemption of bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,651 on railway extension, £106,784 on Freetown Harbour Works, and £15,825 on Roads Construction.

(*d*) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £420,244.

The principal items are :—

	£	£
Railway Stores	38,195	
Public Works Stores	20,263	
		58,458
Surplus Funds (invested)		70,377
Cash Balance—Treasurer's Account ...	32,239	
Railway Open Line Account	6,109	
		38,348
Cash held by Crown Agents		252,000

On 31st December, 1925, the market value of the securities held in respect of Surplus Funds invested was £54,107.

(*e*) PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1925, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £322,277.

(*f*) CURRENCY.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values : £5, £1 and 10*s*.

The stock of West African alloy coin at the beginning of the year was £23,411. This coin was issued to the two banks as required.

Sums amounting to £107,540 were received from the West African Currency Board during the year, and £78,692 was received from the banks and taken into stock. £80,467 was issued to the banks. Damaged coin of the face value of £515 was destroyed, leaving a balance in hand of £128,661 at the close of the year.

The face value of the West African currency notes held at the beginning of the year was £122,464. During the year sums representing £186,764 were returned by the banks to the Currency Board's stock, and notes to the value of £178,808 were destroyed. The issues to the banks amounted to £51,470, and the balance on hand at the close of the year represented a face value of £78,950.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African currency notes issued in the other Colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the redemption of large sums in excess of the face value of amounts issued, as also for the fact that the value of notes actually in circulation at the end of the year is calculated at a minus sum of £752,448. A sum of £23,278 was received from the Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income on investments during the year.

(g) BANKING.

There are two banks—the Bank of British West Africa and Barclays Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III. Trade, Industries and Shipping.

(a) IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1925 was £2,178,461, as compared with £1,730,643 in 1924.

The following tables show the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1924 and 1925:—

	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports ...	1,291,982	1,451,596	1,686,078
Government Imports ...	146,053	184,351	255,236
Specie	312,268	94,696	237,147
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,730,643	£2,178,461

	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	354,488	413,532	427,460
Raw materials, and articles mainly unmanufactured	103,680	156,924	178,138
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	1,062,970	1,329,461
Miscellaneous	418	2,521	6,255
Specie	312,268	94,696	237,147
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,730,643	£2,178,461

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1923	46,378
1924	36,786
1925	38,251

The value of spirits, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :—

	Per cent.
1913	5·18
1914	3·26
1915	4·47
1916	4·09
1917	3·57
1918	4·27
1919	2·83
1920	2·05
1921	2·18
1922	2·88
1923	1·54
1924	1·10
1925	1·25

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 22,075 tons, as against 26,572 tons in 1924.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 12,993 tons.

Cotton Piece-Goods.

Year.	*Quantity. Yards.*	*Value. C.I.F.* £	*Duty obtained.* £	*Rate of Duty. Per cent.*
1912 ...	14,538,851	231,676	22,014	10
1913 ...	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914 ...	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915 ...	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10–12
1916 ...	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917 ...	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918 ...	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919 ...	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920 ...	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921 ...	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15–20–15
1922 ...	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923 ...	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25
1924 ...	*7,239,137	308,372	70,050	†25
1925 ...	10,203,858	431,454	80,401	20

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* Up to and including 1923 the quantity is shown in linear yards; the 1924 and 1925 figures represent square yards.

† Until 27th November, 1924, when it was reduced to 20%.

Other Cotton Goods.

Year.	*Value. C.I.F.* £	*Duty obtained.* £	*Rate of Duty. Per cent.*
1912	150,068	13,945	10
1913	158,196	1[illegible],510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10–12
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,862	15–20–15
1922	56,348	12,696	25
1923	66,520	20,108	25
1924	95,562	21,290	*25
1925	125,062	21,675	20

* Duty reduced to 20 per cent. on 27th November, 1924.

(*b*) EXPORTS.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £1,820,635, as compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,711,438 in 1924. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel; such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment. In reports previous to that for 1922 export duty was included in such values.

The following is a comparative table:—

	1913. £	*1924.* £	*1925.* £
Produce and manufacture of the Colony	1,376,603	1,510,353	1,627,916
Coal	—	63,036	66,211
Other British and foreign produce and manufacture ...	113,685	97,346	94,045
Specie	240,964	40,703	32,463
Totals...	£1,731,252	£1,711,438	£1,820,635

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports:—

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*
Benniseed (tons)	—	15	62
Cocoa, raw (lb.)	—	45,229	112,158
Ginger (cwt.)	27,905	38,847	49,260
Hides (cwt.)	202	206	170
Kola Nuts (lb.)	5,698,703	5,686,066	5,469,358
Palm Kernels (tons)	59,545	61,117	63,231
Palm Oil (tons)...	3,346	3,110	2,988
Pepper (lb.)	328,188	247,342	40,613
Piassava (tons)...	1,620	995	2,166
Rice (bushels)	259	928	572

The "balance of trade" figures (excluding both import and export duty) for the past five years are given in the following table :—

Year.		*Imports** *(Commercial).*	*Exports** *(Commercial).*	*Balance of Imports over Exports.*	*Balance of Exports over Imports.*
		£	£	£	£
1920	...	3,175,835	2,916,173	259,662	—
1921	...	1,335,885	1,312,148	23,737	—
1922	...	1,229,210	1,180,255	48,955	—
1923	...	1,421,928	1,472,714	—	50,786
1924	...	1,451,596	1,597,712	—	146,116
1925	...	1,686,078	1,788,172	—	102,094

* Excluding Specie.

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 5,469,358 lb., valued at £215,721, as compared with 5,686,066 lb., valued at £180,976, in 1924.

The continued slight decrease is due to a poor mid-year crop and to the falling away of shipments to the Gambia, but prices were better than in 1924.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that Sierra Leone kolas maintained their hold in the French Senegal, and exports to Nigeria show a steady increase and are now really substantial.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 63,231 tons, being an increase of 2,114 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,152,467, an increase of £56,081 over the 1924 figure. This quantity constitutes a record in the annual export of palm kernels from the Colony. The improvement in the quality of kernels was fully maintained and local prices were high. The United Kingdom absorbed 86·7 per cent. of the kernels exported, the remainder going to Germany. In 1913 Germany took 87·5 per cent. and the United Kingdom 12·5. The European market prices for palm kernels were good, averaging nearly £22 a ton, as against £21 in 1924.

Exports of palm kernels since 1912:—

	Tons.
1912	50,751
1913	49,201
1914	35,915
1915	39,624
1916	45,316
1917	58,020
1918	40,816
1919	50,622
1920	50,425
1921	40,409
1922	49,029
1923	59,545
1924	61,117
1925	63,231

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 2,988 tons, valued at £94,132, as against 3,110 tons, valued at £93,141, in 1924. Although a slight decrease is shown on the 1924 figures, this export is well above the average, while an enhanced price was obtained. The amount exported represents only a fraction of the amount produced, as this commodity forms one of the principal articles of diet locally.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last twenty years:—

Palm Kernels.

	£			£	
1906	10·88	per ton.	1916	15·02	per ton.
1907	12·82	,,	1917	14·52	,,
1908	9·87	,,	1918	16·74	,,
1909	11·25	,,	1919	23·52	,,
1910	14·98	,,	1920	27·79	,,
1911	15·33	,,	1921	16·95	,,
1912	15·63	,,	1922	17·50	,,
1913	18·72	,,	1923	18·75	,,
1914	15·52	,,	1924	21·00	,,
1915	12·72	,,	1925	21·90	,,

Palm Oil.

	£			£	
1906	18·32	per ton.	1916	23·92	per ton.
1907	21·07	,,	1917	28·72	,,
1908	18·53	,,	1918	32·38	,,
1909	18·77	,,	1919	34·84	,,
1910	24·24	,,	1920	59·63	,,
1911	26·73	,,	1921	40·35	,,
1912	23·00	,,	1922	35·67	,,
1913	22·95	,,	1923	35·75	,,
1914	21·99	,,	1924	39·75	,,
1915	23·60	,,	1925	40·11	,,

This table shows that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1906, the value during 1920 was altogether abnormal.

The following table gives the average monthly prices in the United Kingdom obtained by palm kernels and palm oil during the years 1923, 1924 and 1925:—

	Palm Kernels.			*Palm Oil.*		
	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ...	18	21	22½	34	40¼	44½
February ...	18¾	20¾	21	36½	41¼	42¾
March ...	20	19¾	20	38½	40½	41½
April ...	21½	19¾	21	38½	37¾	39¾
May ...	19	19½	21½	36	35¾	39½
June ...	19	21	21	34½	36½	39½
July ...	17¾	21	21¾	33¾	38¼	39¾
August ...	17	21	22	33	39	40¾
September	18¼	21	21¾	34¾	39	40½
October ...	18¼	23	21	35½	42½	39½
November	19	22¾	21½	36½	44	39¼
December...	20¼	22¾	21¾	38	43¾	39¾

Ginger.—The export of ginger showed an increase of 10,413 cwt. (£14,109) over the figures for the preceding year, but prices were not quite so good. In all, 24,920 cwt. were shipped to the United Kingdom and 21,411 cwt. to the United States of America. The United Kingdom market for Sierra Leone ginger is thus shown to be improving, as in 1923 the United States of America absorbed 87 per cent. of the ginger exports from this Colony. The year 1925 may be regarded as highly satisfactory as far as ginger is concerned. This product now ranks third in the list of domestic exports.

(*c*) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade, £1,428,177, or 65·56 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 65 per cent. in 1924; £240,510, or 11·04 per cent., was with the United States of America, as compared with 12·06 in 1924; from foreign West African possessions, £134,155, or 6·16 per cent.

Of the export trade, £1,221,767, or 67·10 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £162,224, or 8·91 per cent., to British West African Possessions; and £57,921, or 3·18 per cent., to the United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade and only 13·29 per cent. of the export trade, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

(*d*) SHIPPING.

A furthur increase, 419,569 tons, took place in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year, and the actual number of vessels showed an increase of 153 on the 1924 figure. British shipping absorbed almost the whole of this increase in tonnage and appropriated 72·82 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels entered. American vessels entered showed a decrease of 1,031 tons. Dutch vessels entered increased by 24,681 tons, retaining second place to British vessels. Italian and French shipping increased by 14,452 and 3,141 tons respectively, also Belgian and Norwegian showed increases of 3,553 and 2,331 tons respectively; but German, Swedish and Portuguese showed decreases of 32,043, 29,984 and 16 tons respectively.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the years 1924 and 1925:—

Vessels Entered.

	1924.		*1925.*		*Increase.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown ...	619	1,659,960	689	1,858,864	70	198,904
Sherbro ...	2	77	2	5,161	—	5,084
Mano Salija ...	—	—	15	4,121	15	4,121
Sulima ...	1	1,419	2	1,648	1	229
Totals ...	622	1,661,456	708	1,869,794	86	208,338

Vessels Cleared.

	1924.		*1925.*		*Increase.*		*Decrease.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown...	607	1,630,442	674	1,838,252	67	207,810	—	—
Sherbro ...	7	15,229	3	7,592	—	—	4	7,637
Mano Salija	7	7,323	21	18,445	14	11,122	—	—
Sulima ...	3	3,065	3	3,001	—	—	—	64
Totals	624	1,656,059	701	1,867,290	77	211,231	—	—

IV. Legislation.

Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year 1925. With the exception of the Annual Supply enactments and one special Pension Law, all were amending Ordinances.

V. Lands and Forests.

The varied operations of the Lands and Forests Department, conducted with a view to securing larger output of the staple products of the country and to the maintenance of a higher standard of quality in the articles produced, were actively pursued throughout the year under review. Propaganda work was also continued unremittingly in the direction of the fostering of new products and improved methods of cultivation. The Division of Research conducted elaborate investigations into the soil properties of the country, by means of chemical analyses of specimens of soil taken from all parts of the country. These investigations will, it is hoped, afford valuable data as to the possible yields of the several crops in the different districts of the Protectorate. This Division also conducted a careful enquiry into the relative productivity of the different varieties of oil palm, backed by a survey of the distribution of the several varieties throughout the country . This investigation and survey were still in progress at the end of the year.

The Division of Agriculture persevered in its endeavour to establish the cultivation of Allen's Long Staple Cotton, but hitherto their endeavour has, owing to unfavourable weather conditions, the reluctance of the natives to embark on a new crop requiring careful handling, and other considerations, not met with the full measure of success that it deserves. Attention is now being directed to the perfection of the cultivation of the local variety of cotton known as Quande. The high standard obtained in the cultivation of ginger was well maintained, and the Division made considerable progress in its efforts towards the further cultivation of cocoa, coconuts, and swamp rice. The work of the Division of Forests in demarcating forest reserves was steadily maintained.

The activities of the Division of Inspection have proved to be of great value in enhancing the quality of the output of produce of all kinds.

For particulars of the quantities of produce exported, and prices obtained for such produce, see " Trade, Industries and Shipping."

The work of the Department was greatly assisted by special investigations conducted by the Imperial Institute (see " Imperial Institute ").

The visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was made the occasion for the holding of a large and very successful Agricultural Show in Freetown, which was opened by His Royal Highness on the 6th April.

VI. Education.

The Colony is well provided with both elementary and secondary schools. There is a considerable educational activity in the Protectorate, but much yet remains to be done there.

The following schedule gives details of all elementary schools in the Colony and Protectorate which are in receipt of Government assistance:—

Schools.	*No.*	*Number on Roll.*	*Average attendance.*
Government	14	1,301	1,062
Church of England	37	3,040	2,117
Wesleyan Methodist	29	2,774	1,927
Roman Catholic	11	1,584	1,217
United Brethren in Christ ...	16	950	682
United Methodist	11	961	585
Mohammedan	5	726	424
Countess of Huntingdon ...	3	155	108
United Brethren in Africa ...	2	85	69
American Methodist Episcopal	2	146	111
American Wesleyan	2	85	82
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1	52	34
	133	11,859	8,418

I. COLONY.

The Government Educational Institutions in the Colony at the end of the year comprised the Model School, Freetown, and the elementary schools at Wilberforce, Waterloo and Benguema. At the end of the year the Model School had 172 boys and 59 girls on its roll.

Secondary Schools.

There are twelve secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Schools.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham), the Grammar School, the Wesleyan Boys' High School and the Albert Academy for boys, the Annie Walsh School and the Wesleyan Girls' High School for girls.

The old naval victualling station at King Tom was converted into a Government secondary school for boys. It is called the Prince of Wales's School, and it was formally opened by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the 6th April, 1925.

The curriculum includes the subjects required for the Cambridge Examinations for Junior and Senior Certificates, with a distinct bias towards science, a subject which is at present not fully provided for by the other secondary schools. At the end of the year there were 99 boys on the roll.

Examinations are held for the Cambridge Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year :—

	Entered.	*Passed.*
Preliminary	18	5
Junior Certificate ...	52	20
School Certificate ...	34	9

Trade Schools.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones' Trades School was opened in 1920; it is partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government grant.

II. PROTECTORATE.

In all there are 135 primary Schools in the Protectorate.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are :—

(1) The Bo School, for the sons and nominees of Chiefs;
(2) The Agricultural College, Njala;
(3) Bumpe School;
(4) Baiima School;
(5) Gbangbama School;
(6) Gambia School;

and six vernacular schools referred to in a subsequent paragraph.

The Bo School has 161 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

Of the ex-pupils of Bo School, five are Paramount Chiefs and eighty are employed under the Colonial Government.

Njala Agricultural College is a boarding school in the Central Province, and has 106 boys on the roll. It was founded for the purpose of training teachers, with a practical knowledge of agriculture, to take charge of small vernacular schools throughout the Protectorate, and it operates in conjunction with the Government Experimental Station at Njala. The year 1923 saw the first fruits of the College's work, in that six vernacular schools were built, and staffed with old pupils of the College; at all of these, steady progress was made throughout the year 1925.

The Bumpe School had an average attendance of 60 boys, the Baiima School of 18.

VII. Government Departments and Institutions.

(*a*) HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire in 1920, and all records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new hospital, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

A portion of the new hospital (known as the Connaught Hospital) was completed in 1922, consisting of three blocks of two wards each containing eighty beds and five cots, operating theatre, kitchen, laundry, fumigating block, staff latrine, and bath block.

In addition to the above, the new hospital was planned to comprise three more blocks of wards, quarters for the resident surgeon and nursing sisters, offices and stores. Work on the outpatients' block is now progressing.

Patients admitted to the Connaught Hospital numbered 1,860. There were 134 deaths, and 71 operations were performed. 263 patients were admitted to the Maternity Ward, Colonial Hospital; this is the largest number for this Ward.

At the Connaught Hospital 14,106 outpatients were treated, the total attendances being 36,441.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, 60 were admitted during the year, and 18 died, the total number treated during the year being 147. The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

There were 203 admissions to the Kissy Infirmaries during the year; a total of 253 cases were treated, and there were 52 deaths.

European Hospital.—There were 111 admissions, 45 of these being Government officials. One official died.

(*b*) POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits numbered 9,990 and amounted to £26,786 5*s*. 9*d*., showing an increase of 1,801 in number and of £4,884 in value when compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 5,213 and amounted to £27,772, showing an increase of 650 in number and an increase of £1,578 in value in comparison with the figures for 1924.

The average value of each deposit was £2 13*s*. 7*d*., and of each withdrawal £5 6*s*. 6*d*., as against £2 3*s*. 6*d*. and £5 14*s*. 10*d*. respectively in the previous year.

During the year, 1,530 accounts were opened and 1,305 closed, showing a net increase of 225. At the end of the year the names of 5,226 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £62,636 11*s*. 4½*d*. The average value of each account was, at the close of the year, £11 9*s*. 9*d*.

The total sum invested is £61,575 18*s*. 4*d*. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,328 3*s*. 6*d*. The interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,426 5*s*. 1*d*.

(c) Port and Marine.

The important work of clearing the channel in the Scarcies River, from Tawiya to Kambia, was proceeded with, and the channel, now clearly marked by buoys, may now be regarded as safely navigable at half-tide.

The usual overhaul of buoys in the Sherbro River was conducted.

The appointment of a European pilot, engaged for the purpose of conducting ships up the Sherbro River, has been of the greatest benefit to shipping, no mishap being reported in the Sherbro River throughout the year.

For particulars of shipping, see "Trade, Industries and Shipping."

VIII. Judicial Statistics.

(a) Police.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1925 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, three Inspectors, three African Sub-Inspectors and 311 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The health of the Force, though not entirely satisfactory, showed marked improvement on that of the previous year.

The following table shows the cases reported, and arrests made, in 1923, 1924 and 1925:—

Year.	*Cases Reported.*	*Arrests Made.*	*Convictions.*	*Percentage Convictions to Arrests.*
1923	2,370	2,362	1,897	80·03
1924	2,510	2,363	1,895	80·02
1925	2,476	2,336	1,783	76·32

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the two years :—

	1924.	*1925.*
Murder	2	—
House-breaking	17	24
Burglary	33	19
Shop-breaking	3	6
Rape	8	8
Larceny	391	777
Receiving	65	55

(*b*) FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the City Council. There were three serious outbreaks of fire during the year.

(*c*) PRISONS.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1924 and 1925 :—

	1924.	*1925.*
Males	1,130	924
Females	14	24
Juveniles	46	37

The decrease in the number of juvenile offenders is satisfactory.

The decrease in the number of males admitted is striking, and is attributed to the fact that the great increase in Public Works activities has found employment for a large number of men who formerly were unemployed.

The general health was very good. There was a mild epidemic of diarrhœa, which was speedily checked. There were 29 admissions to hospital during the year, as against 188 in 1924.

In the Protectorate prisons 895 persons were committed to prison in 1925, as compared with 799 in 1924; the daily average for the year being 184.

IX. Vital Statistics.

(*a*) EUROPEAN POPULATION.

The number of European residents during 1925 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	200*
Non-officials*	350
Military	283

* This figure includes white Americans.

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 180, as compared with 164 in 1924. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths, from climatic and non-climatic causes, of Europeans in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912:—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Colony and Protectorate.				Total.
			Non-Military.		Military.		
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1912 ...	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ...	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ...	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ...	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ...	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ...	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ...	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ...	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ...	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921 ...	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922 ...	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923† ...	—	—	4	1	2	—	7
1924 ...	1	—	3	2	2	—	8
1925 ...	1	1	3	2	—	1	8

* Influenza epidemic.

† (1923) In addition two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour; one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

(b) POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Population, 1921 Census.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*	*Infantile mortality per 1,000 births.*
Freetown ...	44,142	25	25·5	291
Colony other than Freetown ...	41,021	21·6	20·3	188

Owing to non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and, with a view to reducing it, "Infant Welfare" work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony, respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(*c*) SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was not in quarantine during the year. Owing to the presence of plague in Lagos throughout the year, the Port Health work was heavy. No cases of smallpox were reported in Freetown, but there were six cases in the Konno District. Chicken-pox was fairly frequent both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

(*d*) RECORD OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*
Number vaccinated	21,517	9,636	10,367
„ successful	10,294	4,925	4,806
„ unsuccessful	4,266	2,052	3,226
„ not inspected... ...	6,957	2,659	2,335

Five cases of anthrax in cattle were reported in Freetown, and were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis appears to be increasing, and the matter is receiving careful study.

There were no cases of diphtheria or of cerebro-spinal meningitis. Small outbreaks of a mild form of influenza were reported from a number of stations in the Protectorate.

The Superintendent of Freetown Water Works reports that there was a slight shortage of water between the 8th and 20th May. The average daily consumption was 422,470 gallons.

The Sanitary Department purchased and destroyed 18,714 rats, paying for them at the rate of 1*d*. each until July, and thereafter at the rate of 2*d*. each.

(*e*) CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70°. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95°, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. It is not always damp, speaking generally, and there are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country.

There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunder-storms, known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 ft. above sea-level, for the past forty years are now available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands.

Average Rainfall, Freetown (Tower Hill).

Period.	*Average Rainfall.*
1882–1891	166·07
1892–1901	165·15
1902–1911	156·00
1912–1921	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 in. in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 in. in 1914.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east "Trades," and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and is accompanied by a thick haze probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in 1925 was 140·23 in.; this is below the average for the past forty years (152·47 in.).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 8·40 in. on 4th August. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 67°; the highest, 97°; both being recorded during the month of February.

(*f*) CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis and golf. As the country is hilly, cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as good English meat, but when properly cooked it is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

A cold storage plant, from which fresh meat and fish, game, etc., can be procured, has been started by one of the European firms in Freetown.

(*g*) POPULATION (COLONY AND PROTECTORATE).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) has increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902–11 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1902–11 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population *see* "Political Administration."

X. Postal, Telegraphs and Telephones.

(*a*) POSTAL.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was forty-one. Money-order business was transacted at eighteen offices and postal order business at thirty-two.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,746,932, as compared with 1,579,175 in 1924. The total was made up as follows:—

	Letters.	*Post-cards.*	*News-papers and books.*	*Totals.*
Despatched to United Kingdom	180,117	6,906	18,520	205,543
Received from United Kingdom	183,276	4,003	218,629	405,908
Despatched to inter-colonial ports ...	112,100	808	24,394	137,302
Received from inter-colonial ports ...	132,019	526	11,368	143,913
Inland	752,197	4,684	97,385	854,266
Totals	1,359,709	16,927	370,296	1,746,932

The money-order transactions numbered 6,222 and amounted to £54,352, showing a decrease of 195 in number and £6,608 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

Money-orders.	*1924.*		*1925.*	
	Number.	*Amount.*	*Number.*	*Amount.*
		£		£
Received from United Kingdom	391	2,138	514	2,622
Despatched to United Kingdom	1,905	13,669	1,945	12,697
Received from West African Colonies ...	750	9,221	642	7,558
Despatched to West African Colonies ...	478	5,641	463	5,625
Inland	2,893	30,291	2,658	25,850
Totals	6,417	£60,960	6,222	£54,352

Postal orders issued numbered 59,064 and amounted to £40,109, as compared with 50,844, to the value of £34,158, in 1924. 47,483 orders, amounting to £33,831, were paid, an increase of 3,833 in number and £2,619 in value when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The Postal revenue totalled £13,135, showing an increase of £1,183 as compared with 1924. The Customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £7,926, and stamps to the value of £3,186 were sold in connection with Inland Revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £17,597, which shows an increase of £27 when compared with the figure for 1924.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano, on the railway, there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengama to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a motor-boat service, and from Sengama there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles). A branch line of about 3 miles was constructed from Luawa, on the Sumbuya–Bendu line, in the Southern Province, to Mattru.

From Songo (on the railway) there is a telephone to Port Lokko. This line runs from Port Lokko in a northerly direction through Mange to the trading centre of Kambia. There is thus now a through line from Songo to Kambia.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1924 and 1925 (exclusive of messages sent on railway service) was :—

	1924.	*1925.*
Public telegrams ...	45,506	52,431
Government telegrams .	18,299	17,089

The revenue from telegrams was £5,265, as compared with £5,500 in 1924.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and are sent through the office of the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown, with 97 circuits.

The telephone revenue in 1925 amounted to £1,440.

XI. Communications.

(*a*) RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½	Miles main line, Water Street to Pendembu.
104	Miles branch line, Boia to Kambai.
5½	Miles hill station line.
1	Mile branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.
Total 338	

Approximately seventeen miles of sidings, at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1925, was £1,698,919.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1924 and 1925 :—

	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*
	£	£	£
General Revenue ...	168,418	219,045	231,889
Expenditure	90,155	198,307	176,481

The amount of revenue collected during the year constitutes a record.

	1913.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ...	114·11	99·26	113·79	109·79
Working expenses per train-mile (in pence)	61·09	96·07	93·96	83·56
Passengers carried	438,388	583,290	543,918	587,944

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 43 engines, 87 coaching vehicles and 343 goods vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 72,298 tons, as compared with 68,493 in 1924 and 62,084 in 1913.

(*b*) ROADS.

The following first-class motor roads have been completed, or are at present under construction :—

Roads.	*Total mileage.*
Kumrabai—Bo—Pujehun	107
Boadgibu—Blama—Panguma	62½
Segbwema—Bandajuma	26
Pendembu—Kailahun—Mofindo ...	24
Moyamba—Sembehun	19
Sumbuya—Koribundu	21
Koribundu—Blama	27
Total	286½

These roads serve as feeders, by motor transport, for the important railway centres, Pendembu, Blama, Segbwema, Hangha, Bo and Moyamba.

It has been reckoned that a first-class road with permanent bridges costs about £800 a mile to construct. Experiments are being made with bridges of specially selected sawn timbers. It is estimated that such bridges should last for at least four or five years, and that they should cost a very great deal less than concrete bridges.

(*c*) WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light-draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways, and steps are being taken to open them up further.

XII. Public Works.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Foremost among these were :—

(*a*) Erection of a new school at Wilberforce.
(*b*) Beginning of new Government offices in George Street.
(*c*) Erection of operating theatre, offices and stores at the European Hospital.
(*d*) Completion of male and female wards and the observation block at Kissy Asylum.
(*e*) Erection of police station at Cline Town.
(*f*) Erection of classrooms, etc., at Bo School.
(*g*) Completion of Panguma water supply.

XIII. Freetown City Council.

The City Council of Freetown, a body partly elected and partly nominated, is charged with the lighting of the streets of the city, the licensing and control of parks, markets, slaughter-houses, etc., the administration of the water supply, and the maintenance and control of the Fire Brigade. It is also the licensing authority for vehicles and for certain classes of licensable occupations.

The annual value of rateable hereditaments in Freetown is estimated at £83,845.

XIV. Political Administration.

(*a*) COLONY.

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in the vicinity, Sherbro and York Islands and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone Peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island and Turner's Peninsula, although Colony, are administered as Protectorate*, and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (*a*) Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (*b*) the Headquarters District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Islands, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters District (as well as the District Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (*i.e.*, of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows :—

District.	Area. sq. miles.	Population.
Police (including Freetown) ...	50	56,980
Headquarters	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281

(*b*) PROTECTORATE.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Northern and Central Provinces are each sub-divided into four districts, and the Southern Province into five, all under District Commissioners.

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* Except an area of 10 square miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board.

The area and population of each district are as follows :—

	Sq. miles.	Approximate Native Population.
Northern Province :—		
Port Lokko (Headquarters, Port Lokko)	2,160	153,300
Batkanu (Headquarters, Batkanu) ...	2,940	154,600
Bombali (Headquarters, Makene) ...	3,300	173,350
Koinadugu (Headquarters, Kaballa) ...	5,450	85,700
*Ronietta District (administered by the District Commissioner, Headquarters District).		
Central Province :—		
Moyamba (Headquarters, Moyamba) ...	1,540	100,696
Konno (Headquarters, Panguma) ...	2,400	167,450
Kennema (Headquarters, Kennema) ...	2,190	168,531
Pendembu (Headquarters, Pendembu)...	1,440	151,591
Southern Province :—		
Gbangbama (Headquarters, Gbangbama)	1,620	69,500
Sumbuya (Headquarters, Sumbuya) ...	1,030	98,758
Pujehun (Headquarters, Pujehun) ...	1,140	97,273
Mano River (Headquarters, Zimmi) ...	890	
Bonthe (Headquarters, Bonthe) ...	880	32,154
Totals	26,980	1,450,903

The total European Political Staff consists of only twenty-nine European officers, five or six of whom are usually on leave. The remaining officers administer an area of 26,980 square miles; in other words, on an average, each officer is in charge of some 1,230 square miles. To help him he has a clerk and, may be, about a dozen members of the Court Messenger Force, a disciplined body of Protectorate natives performing, in the Protectorate, such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties that the exigencies of the Protectorate administration demand.

XV. West African Frontier Force.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms part of the West African Frontier Force, the other component parts of which are the Nigeria Regiment, the Gold Coast Regiment and the Gambia Company.

The Battalion has its headquarters at Daru, in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, a town on the main line of the railway, some 214 miles from Freetown. One company is stationed at Makene in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, an important trading centre on the branch line of the railway, and 148 miles from Freetown.

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* The Ronietta District has been formed by a combination of two Chiefdoms from the Bombali District and two from the Port Lokko District. Particulars of area and population are not at present available, but are included in those shown in respect of the two Districts named.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1925 FOR SIERRA LEONE.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS AND ENQUIRIES.

During 1925 the following investigations and enquiries were carried out for the Government of Sierra Leone. All the samples received for examination were forwarded by the Commissioner of Lands and Forests.

Piassava fibre.—With a view to improving the quality of Sierra Leone piassava, a series of retting experiments was carried out by the Lands and Forests Department in the Colony in order to determine the best method of preparation. In these experiments twelve samples of the leaf bases of both *Raphia vinifera* and *R. Gaertneri* were retted in standing or swamp water and in running or river water, for various periods, and the products were forwarded for comparative examination.

The swamp-retted *R. vinifera* samples contained less brittle fibre than the river-retted product, and the swamp-retted *R. Gaertneri* fibre was also better on the whole than the river-retted material, although the difference in this case was very slight. The results, however, did not permit of a definite conclusion with regard to the comparative effect of river-retting and swamp-retting on the quality of the fibre. In most of the bundles the fibre was of uneven thickness, and it was suggested by a firm of piassava importers, who were consulted, that the piassava should be roughly graded in Sierra Leone and the thicker fibre sorted and baled separately for shipment. It was recommended that trial consignments of several tons each of the two species, suitably retted, cleaned and graded, should be prepared and forwarded to the Institute for examination and sale.

In connection with this question, particulars were furnished, at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Forests, as to the methods of preparation of piassava in South America.

Cotton.—Two samples of Nanga cotton, which were believed to represent a form of the Quande variety, were of similar appearance to the Quande cotton already examined at the Imperial Institute, and also resembled it in strength and length of staple. The yields of lint on ginning were, however, considerably below those obtained previously with Quande cotton at the Imperial Institute. Consignments of similar quality would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom.

Cuttle-fish "bones."—These cuttle-fish bones are found, sometimes in considerable quantities, on the coast of Sierra Leone, and it was desired to ascertain their probable value and uses in the United Kingdom. Importers, who were consulted, stated that bones of the size of these samples would be regarded as low-grade material, which could only be used for grinding or for the use of poultry, and would realise a low price. Commercial specimens of cuttle-fish bones, representing the material required on the London market, were supplied to Sierra Leone, and it was suggested that if bone of this quality is available in large quantities a trial shipment should be forwarded to the Institute.

Palm Pericarp Waste.—Samples of washed and unwashed pericarp waste were received for examination in connection with trials in the Colony of a depericarping machine. The results showed that the pericarp still contained a large quantity of oil.

Arrowroot.—This arrowroot was of normal composition, containing a good percentage of starch and satisfactorily low amounts of protein and ash. It was inferior in colour to St. Vincent arrowroot, and this fact would render it difficult to dispose of consignments in competition with the latter. A sample of commercial St. Vincent arrowroot for comparison was sent with the report.

Attention was drawn to the restricted demand for arrowroot in the United Kingdom, and it was pointed out that it was doubtful whether it would be worth while to produce it in Sierra Leone on a commercial scale for export. The Institute offered, however, on receipt of information as to the price at which the material could be offered, to further investigate the commercial possibilities.

Ginger.—In connection with steps taken in Sierra Leone with a view to improving the quality of the ginger produced in the Colony, a Memorandum on the uses of various types of ginger in the United Kingdom, embodying information furnished by commercial experts in London, was prepared at the Imperial Institute and forwarded to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests. The suggestion was made in the Memorandum that a quantity of peeled ginger should be prepared in Sierra Leone and sent to London to test the market. Tables showing the sources of supply of the ginger imported into the United Kingdom were also furnished.

Cocoa.—Information was furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests as to the loss in weight occurring in the fermenting of cocoa beans, and figures were supplied showing the results obtained in experiments made in the Gold Coast and elsewhere.

Copra.—Recommendations were made to the Exhibition Commissioner for Sierra Leone, British Empire Exhibition (1925), regarding machines for drying copra. Specifications and quotations of suitable machines were furnished.

Various Products.—Information was furnished to a firm in Freetown regarding the marketing in the United Kingdom of mangrove bark, corkwood, camwood, po-yoak nuts and bamboo.

Other enquiries received from Sierra Leone included the cultivation and curing of tobacco, and the manufacture of boot polishes.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION, 1925.

The Imperial Institute was again allotted space in His Majesty's Government Pavilion at Wembley, for an exhibit to illustrate its work in promoting the utilisation of the raw materials of the Empire. Selected examples of the products investigated were shown, including the following from Sierra Leone :—

Oil-palm products; monkey apple and Pooli timbers; cotton; Gorli seed and fat, and also chaulmoogric acid made from the fat; brick and tile clays, with specimens made in the technical trials at the Institute.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following articles of interest to the Colony were published in the Bulletin during the year :—

Monkey Apple Timber.

Seeds of *Citrullus vulgaris* as a Source of Oil.

In the monograph issued by the Institute, entitled " Bauxite and Aluminium," a short statement concerning the occurrence at Falaba is given, together with analysis.

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

The exhibits lent from the Court to the Sierra Leone Pavilion at Wembley have been returned.

New specimens of products, including timbers, nuts and kernels and other vegetable products received from Wembley have been added to the Court. Four show-cases have also been transferred from the British Empire Exhibition.

Lectures to school parties and to the public, as well as conducted tours, have been given by the Guide Lecturers.

Specimens of Sierra Leone products have been supplied to schools and inquirers.

Picture postcard views of Sierra Leone have been displayed for sale at the Central Stand.

The Court was closed from the 1st November for redecoration and the installation of the new exhibits.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1359.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1275 (Price 1s. 3d.), and for Report for 1925 see No. 1320 (Price 1s. 0d.).)

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.

Geographical and Historical.

An account of the general geographical features of the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, together with a synopsis of its history, may be found in the Annual General Report for the year 1924.*

A map of the country will be found in the Report for the year 1921.†

I.—General.

The year under review was not so satisfactory as previous years, the total revenue showing a decrease of £90,141, as compared with 1925. This circumstance was due partly to the general unrest in the industrial world, partly to a local railway strike which broke out early in the year and lasted for six weeks.

Agricultural propaganda was maintained throughout the Colony and Protectorate, special attention being paid to swamp rice, cocoa, and coconuts.

Owing to grave irregularities that had come to light in the financial administration of the Freetown Municipal Council, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles O'Brien, K.C.M.G., was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies as sole Commissioner to hold an Inquiry into the state of affairs. He arrived in the middle of the year, accompanied by Mr. A. J. Dawe, of the Colonial Office, as Secretary of the Commission. As a result of his recommendations the City Council was abolished in December and a Temporary Municipal Board created.

In April a visit was paid to the Colony and part of the Protectorate by the Right Honourable W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr. Ormsby Gore was accompanied by the Honourable Charles Rhys, M.P., and by Messrs. J. E. Flood and A. Bevir of the Colonial Office.

The Governor was absent from the Colony from the 21st April to the 23rd October, during which period the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke, C.M.G.

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* No. 1275 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.
† No. 1150 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.

II.—Financial.

(a) *Revenue.*

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £855,440, as compared with £945,581 in 1925, being **less** than the original Estimate by £66,194.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1914, 1925, and 1926 :—

	1914.	*1925*	*1926.*
	£	£	£
Customs	199,456	539,299	452,675
Light Dues	6,502	12,597	14,516
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	87,504	16,290	16,205
House Tax Receipts	—	60,162	60,669
Fees of Court	15,567	24,464	26,390
Post Office	9,782	13,135	13,215
Rents	402	474	569
Interest	24,910	15,076	18,403
Miscellaneous	2,293	32,167	24,271
Railway	150,058	231,889	228,527
Land Sales	278	28	—
Reimbursement from Loan ...	178,936	—	—
Totals	£675,688	£945,581	£855,440

The revenue for the year 1926 shows a decrease of £90,141 compared with the revenue of 1925, which is chiefly accounted for by a fall in Customs Receipts of £86,624, and may be ascribed principally to the hesitation of merchants to carry large stocks owing to the general unrest in the industrial world.

(b) *Expenditure.*

The expenditure for the year amounted to £957,155, compared with £843,320 in 1925, and was less than the original Estimate by £94,231.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1914, 1925, and 1926 :—

	1914.	*1925.*	*1926.*
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt ...	102,087	83,018	83,018
Pensions	9,960	40,131	44,427
Governor and Legislature	5,949	6,909	6,905
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	9,712	20,049	19,936
Provincial Administration	34,101	61,079	63,905
Treasury	5,306	8,930	9,009
Customs Department...	14,962	21,728	22,419
Audit	2,958	4,460	4,800
Port and Marine Department ...	1,941	4,265	4,450
Legal Departments	10,780	15,295	15,645
Civil Police	10,887	22,741	23,208
Prisons...	9,772	13,934	11,705
Medical Department	29,832	51,044	50,384
Sanitary	9,189	17,775	20,289
Education	13,741	30,766	33,817
Post Office	12,046	17,597	17,330

	1914.	*1925.*	*1926.*
	£	£	£
West African Frontier Force ...	31,276	36,700	39,450
Railway Department...	194,808	157,819	157,850
Agricultural	3,999	—	—
Forestry	4,723	—	—
*Lands and Forests	—	28,707	32,236
Miscellaneous Services	29,644	42,939	24,450
Protectorate Roads Department (now under Public Works Department).	12,587	—	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads).	20,030	28,950	38,349
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads).	23,863	46,470	48,882
Public Works Extraordinary ...	59,530	53,322	62,084
Extraordinary Works, Railway ...	—	21,226	28,521
Survey of Colony and Protectorate...	2,802	—	—
Railway Survey	470	—	—
Freetown Water Works	12,108	—	—
Survey of Freetown	1,082	—	—
Surveys	—	6,747	4,504
Electric Lighting of Freetown ...	—	208	30,229
Depreciation of Investments ...	—	511	—
Special Expenditure from Surplus Balances.	—	—	59,353
Totals	£680,145	£843,320	£957,155

* Previously shown under "Agricultural" and "Forestry."

(c) *Loan Expenditure.*

Nil.

(d) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £318,529.

The principal items are :—

	£	£
Railway Stores	32,495	
Public Works Stores...	16,416	
		48,911
Surplus Funds (invested)		72,591
Cash Balance—Treasurer's Account	19,818	
Railway Open Line Account ...	4,328	
		24,146
Cash held by Crown Agents... ...		182,000

On 31st December, 1926, the market value of the securities held in respect of Surplus Funds invested was £56,525.

(e) *Public Debt.*

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1926, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £354,450.

(f) *Currency.*

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values: £1 and 10*s*.

The stock of the West African alloy coin at the commencement of the year was £128,661, and coin to the value of £40,200 was received from the Banks in respect of remittances or in exchange for currency notes. Coin to the face value of £78,550 was issued for their requirements, and £25,000 was shipped on behalf of the Currency Board to the Gold Coast. The balance on hand at the end of the year was £65,311.

Silver coin was continued to be withdrawn from circulation. On the 1st January £13,752 was held in West African Currency Board stocks and £23,353 was paid in by the Banks during the year. Shipments amounting in the aggregate to £32,800 were made to England, leaving a balance on 31st December of £4,305.

The face value of currency notes in stock on the 1st January was £78,950, and £77,500 was received from the West African Currency Board during the year. Sums representing £217,050 were paid into Currency Board stocks by the Banks in payment of remittances or in exchange for alloy coin, and notes to the face value of £81,500 were issued to the Banks. Old notes to the face value of £157,775 were destroyed, leaving a balance at the close of the year of £134,225.

The face value of notes in circulation as calculated on those issued and redeemed locally was a minus sum of £888,038 11*s*. at 31st December, as against a minus sum of £752,488 11*s*. at the commencement of the year. This result is the effect of quantities of notes issued in other British West African Colonies being landed here from ships on the homeward voyage, and remittances of currency notes being made from adjacent foreign colonies, much of which reached those colonies from sources other than Sierra Leone. This caused the redemption at this currency centre of large sums in excess of the face value of notes issued.

A sum of £21,454 was received from the West African Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income of investments during the year under review.

(g) *Banking.*

There are two Banks—the Bank of British West Africa and Barclays Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both Banks.

Each Bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III—Trade, Industries, and Shipping.

(a) *Imports.*

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1926 was £1,844,122, as compared with £2,178,461 in 1925.

The following tables show the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1925, and 1926 :—

	1913.	*1925.*	*1926.*
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,291,982	1,686,078	1,358,780
Government Imports	146,053	255,236	267,261
Specie	312,268	237,147	218,081
Totals	£1,750,303	£2,178,461	£1,844,122

	1913.	*1925.*	*1926.*
	£	£	£
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	354,488	427,460	435,461
Raw materials, and articles mainly unmanufactured.	103,680	178,138	118,789
Articles mainly manufactured ...	979,449	1,329,461	1,069,114
Miscellaneous	418	6,255	2,639
Specie	312,268	237,147	218,119
Totals	£1,750,303	£2,178,461	£1,844,122

The revenue derived from imports of spirit was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1914	36,786
1925	38,251
1926	45,234

The value of spirits, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :—

	Per cent.		*Per cent.*
1913	5.18	1920	2.05
1914	3.26	1921	2.18
1915	4.47	1922	2.88
1916	4.09	1923	1.54
1917	3.57	1924	1.10
1918	4.27	1925	1.25
1919	2.83	1926	1.61

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 15,684 tons, as against 22,075 tons in 1925.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 4,782 tons.

The following table shows the imports for home consumption of cotton piece goods during the years 1913 to 1926 :—

Year.	*Quantity.* *Yards.*	*Value C.I.F.* £	*Duty obtained.* £	*Rate of Duty.* *Per cent.*
1913	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10–12½
1916	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15–20–25
1922	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25
1924	*7,239,117	308,372	70,050	†25
1925	10,196,326	430,987	80,401	20
1926	6,142,212	247,604	45,771	20

* Up to and including 1923 the quantity is shown in linear yards ; the 1924 to 1926 figures represent square yards.

† Until 27th November, 1924, when it was reduced to 20 per cent.

Other cotton goods.

Year.	*Value C.I.F.* £	*Duty obtained.* £	*Rate of Duty* *Per cent.*
1913	158,196	14,510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10–12½
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,262	15–20–25
1922	56,348	12,696	25
1923	86,520	20,108	25
1924	95,607	21,290	‡25
1925	114,350	21,675	20
1926	95,519	17,155	20

‡ Duty reduced to 20 per cent. on the 27th November, 1924.

(b) *Exports.*

The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to £1,871,446, compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,820,635 in 1925. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel; such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913. £	*1925.* £	*1926.* £
Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	1,376,603	1,627,916	1,562,525
Coal	—	66,211	40,485
Other British and Foreign manufactures.	113,685	94,045	110,636
Specie	240,964	32,463	157,800
Totals	£1,731,252	£1,820,635	£1,871,446

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the last three years :—

	1924.	*1925.*	*1926.*
Benniseed (tons)	15	62	19
Cocoa, raw (tons)	20	50	41
Ginger (cwt.)	38,847	49,260	55,265
Hides (cwt.)	206	170	337
Kola nuts (tons)	2,538	2,442	3,015
Palm kernels (tons)	61,117	63,231	65,000
Palm oil (tons)	3,110	2,988	2,865
Pepper (tons)	110	18	20
Piassava (tons)	995	2,166	2,083
Rice (bushels)	928	572	2,051

The "balance of trade" figures (excluding both import and export duty) for the last five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	*Imports** *(Commercial).*	*Exports** *(Commercial).*	*Balance of Imports over Exports.*	*Balance of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1922	1,229,210	1,180,255	48,955	—
1923	1,421,928	1,472,714	—	50,786
1924	1,451,596	1,597,712	—	146,116
1925	1,686,078	1,713,545	—	27,467
1926	1,358,780	1,634,577	—	275,79

* Excluding Specie.

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 6,753,766 lb., or 3,015 tons, valued at £246,725, as compared with 5,469,358 lb., or 2,442 tons, valued at £215,721 in 1925.

Nigeria is still the largest purchaser, taking 36 per cent., French Senegal and Gambia taking approximately 30 per cent. each.

The following table shows the exports of kolas to the three principal countries during the last five years :—

	1922.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
	lb.	*lb.*	*lb.*	*lb.*	*lb.*
Nigeria	1,359,085	1,359,643	1,767,200	2,172,633	2,443,551
Gambia	2,553,432	2,531,718	1,785,875	1,371,418	2,058,588
Senegal	1,928,214	1,557,544	1,893,604	1,764,270	2,071,130

The figures in the above table show clearly the steady development of this trade with Nigeria.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 65,000 tons—which is the largest quantity shipped in any year from the Colony, being an increase of 1,769 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,116,780.

Prices in the European market were less than those of the previous year, averaging only £20 6*s.* per ton as compared with £21 10*s.*, with the result that the value of this produce was £35,687 less than the value recorded in 1925. The United Kingdom took only 36,487 tons, or 56.1 per cent., as compared with 54,814 tons, or 86.7 per cent., in 1925, whilst Germany increased her purchases from 7,994 tons in 1925 to 28,111 tons in 1926, which amounts to 43.2 per cent. of the total export. This large increase was due to the depression in the United Kingdom on account of the coal and general strikes—the lack of demand in the United Kingdom being fortunately counter-balanced by an increase in shipments to the Hamburg market.

Exports of palm kernels since 1913 :—

	Tons.		*Tons.*
1913	49,201	1920	50,425
1914	35,915	1921	40,409
1915	39,624	1922	49,029
1916	45,316	1923	59,545
1917	58,020	1924	61,117
1918	40,816	1925	63,231
1919	50,622	1926	65,000

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 2,865 tons, valued at £89,032, as against 2,988 tons, valued at £94,132. An export of less than 3,000 tons of palm oil from a country whose main wealth is the oil palm seems woefully small, but it should be borne in mind that palm oil is the food of the inhabitants and that shipments merely represent the residue after the wants of the populace have been satisfied.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last twenty years :—

Palm Kernels.

	Per ton. £		*Per ton.* £
1907	16·00	1917	25·00
1908	13·00	1918	26·00
1909	14·00	1919	35·50
1910	18·00	1920	38·00
1911	18·00	1921	20·00
1912	19·00	1922	17·50
1913	22·00	1923	18·75
1914	19·00	1924	21·00
1915	16·00	1925	21·50
1916	22·00	1926	20·25

Palm Oil.

	Per ton. £		*Per ton.* £
1907	28·00	1917	44·00
1908	22·00	1918	49·00
1909	22·00	1919	70·00
1910	31·00	1920	64·00
1911	30·00	1921	33·66
1912	27·00	1922	35·66
1913	30·00	1923	35·75
1914	29·00	1924	39·83
1915	30·00	1925	40·50
1916	36·00	1926	37·75

The following table gives the average monthly prices in the United Kingdom obtained by palm kernels and palm oil during the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 :—

	Palm Kernels.			Palm Oil		
	1924.	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	21	22½	21	40¼	44½	39
February	20¾	21	20	41¼	42¾	39
March	19¾	20	20½	40½	41½	39½
April	19¾	21	20½	37¾	39¾	38½
May	19½	21½	21	35¾	39½	38¼
June	21	21	21½	36½	39½	38¾
July	21	21¾	20½	38¼	39¾	38
August	21	22	20¼	39	40¾	38
September	21	21¾	20¼	39	40½	37¾
October	23	21	19½	42½	39½	37
November	22¾	21½	19¾	44	39¼	36¾
December	22¾	21¾	19	43¾	39¾	35¾

Ginger.—Although exports of ginger amounted to 55,265 cwt. and showed an increase of 6,005 cwt. over shipments in 1925, it cannot be deduced that this trade is in a flourishing condition. On the contrary, it has suffered and is suffering a period of extreme depression.

Prices throughout the year were low, averaging 34*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. in the market, the local price offered being approximately 1½*d.* a lb.

30,816 cwt., valued at £37,799, were shipped to the United States of America, 19,490 cwt., valued at £27,137, to the United Kingdom, and 4,011 cwt., valued at £6,033, to France and French Guinea.

(c) *Direction of Trade.*

Of the total import trade, £1,122,617, or 60.88 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 65.56 per cent. in 1925; £203,200, or 11.02 per cent., was with the United States of America, as compared with 11.04 in 1925; foreign West African possessions sent £168,236, or 9.12 per cent.

Of the export trade, £773,299, or 41.32 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £508,119, or 27.15 per cent., to Germany; £297,671, or 15.91 per cent., to British West African possessions; and £46,885, or 2.51 per cent., to the United States of America.

(d) *Shipping.*

The persistent increase in shipping tonnage during the last few years has been remarkable. The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing has almost doubled since 1921 and has developed steadily without any of the set-backs which have occasionally befallen the general trade of the Colony.

Although the percentage proportion of total dropped by 5, the United Kingdom still predominates with 67.84 per cent., and there was an actual increase in tonnage over the figures for 1925 of 13,227.

Holland retained second place and increased her percentage to 10.02. The United States of America had to yield third place to Germany—which country secured 6.73 per cent. of the total tonnage entered.

French vessels secured 5.84 per cent. of the tonnage entered, while, although the United States of America's percentage dropped to 5.82 in 1926, exactly the same number of American vessels (34) entered as in 1925. The French vessels trade to Marseilles, while the American vessels maintain a regular service between New York and the various West African ports.

The following comparative statement shows the numbers and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the years 1925 and 1926 :—

Vessels Entered.

	1925.		*1926.*		*Increase.*		*Decrease.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown ...	689	1,858,864	729	2,004,270	40	145,406	—	—
Sherbro ...	2	5,161	2	3,209	—	—	—	1,952
Mano Salija ...	15	4,121	50	13,211	35	9,090	—	—
Sulima... ...	2	1,648	4	5,997	2	4,349	—	—
	708	1,869,794	785	2,026,687	77	156,893	—	1,952

Vessels Cleared.

	1925.		*1926.*		*Increase.*		*Decrease.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown ...	674	1,838,252	719	1,993,338	45	155,086	—	—
Sherbro ...	3	7,592	5	9,640	3	2,048	—	—
Mano Salija ...	21	18,445	51	18,376	30	—	—	69
Sulima ...	3	3,001	6	10,018	3	7,017	—	—
	701	1,867,290	781	2,031,372	80	164,082	—	69

IV.—Legislation.

Forty-three Ordinances were enacted during the year 1926. Of these, thirty-three either amended or repealed existing measures, two dealt with supply, and the eight remaining Ordinances related to subjects which had not hitherto formed the subject of legislation. The following were the most important of these latter enactments :—

(1) *The Electric Light and Power Ordinance*, which provided for the installation of electric light in the City of Freetown and its neighbourhood.

(2) *The Freetown Temporary Municipal Board Ordinance*, which abolished the existing Municipal Council of Freetown and made provision for the temporary administration of the affairs of the Corporation by a Board nominated by Government.

(3) *The Children's Ordinance*, which deals with the prevention of cruelty to children and is to a large extent based on the Imperial Statute.

(4) *The Palm Wine Ordinance*, which aims at controlling the sale of palm wine in small shops and by hawkers.

As regards amending legislation, the principal measures enacted are as follows:—

(1) *The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance*, which repealed Cap. 139 and brought into force the measures decided upon in the International Opium Convention held at Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations.

(2) *The Freetown Improvement (Amendment) Ordinance*. This Ordinance was enacted at the instance of the Medical Authorities in order that steps might be taken to put an end to overcrowding and to secure greater access of light and air to domestic dwellings and generally to control building operations.

(3) *The Protectorate (No. 3) (Amendment) Ordinance*. This measure aims at the termination of the status of domestic slavery which still persists in the Protectorate.

Eighty-three subordinate legislative measures were also brought into operation during the year.

V.—Lands and Forests.

The Lands and Forests Department now comprises the Divisions of Agriculture, Forestry, Research, Produce Inspection, and Entomology.

The Division of Agriculture sustained and intensified its systematic efforts to extend the cultivation of export crops. Its main Experiment Station at Njala is being enlarged, and an Agricultural College is being built on the Station, for the training of African Agricultural Officers and teachers for the Education Department, Missions, etc. The trial cultivation of American cotton has proved disappointing, and it has been decided not to encourage its further cultivation by the natives until a variety has been evolved more suited to local conditions. Work on the improvement of local varieties of cotton and trials with likely exotic varieties are being continued. Special efforts have been made this year, with the support of the Political Officers, to encourage the cultivation of swamp rice, and considerable progress has been made both in the littoral belt and in the inland swamp areas. The

Government's scheme for encouraging the establishment of coconut plantations in suitable areas in the Southern Province has been pushed forward vigorously, and there is now a large number of small native-owned plantations in a flourishing condition. The total number of palms planted since 1923 in connexion with this Government-assisted scheme is 130,760. Cocoa-planting has also been actively pushed forward not only in the Southern Province but also in the Central and Northern Provinces. A scheme for encouraging the production of coffee has also been initiated in districts which are suitable for the tropical varieties that are being grown. Castor beans cultivation is also being encouraged, and about a ton has been produced the last season, which has been purchased by the Government for re-distribution and planting during the 1927 season. Propaganda for the improvement of ginger was continued in 1926 with promising results.

The activities of the Division of Forests were hampered by absences on leave and by a shortage of officers; and only a small amount of reservation work has been done. The demarcation of the Tama Forest was completed. A preliminary survey of the forests on the Loma Mountains was carried out. These mountains are the highest in Sierra Leone and rise to a height of over 6,000 feet, covering an area of over 150 sq. miles. The Division has been actively engaged in connexion with investigation into the distribution and yield of the different varieties of oil-palm.

The Division of Research continued its work on the investigation of soil problems, and samples of soil were collected from all parts of the Colony and Protectorate. Examination of these soils showed that they were all somewhat on the acid side, and research to account for this acidity suggests that it is due not solely to humus but to the high proportion of alumina to silica in the soils. Work in collaboration with the Division of Agriculture on oil-palms showed that the thin-shelled variety of Nigerian oil-palms at Njala gave a yield of over 600 lb. of pericarp oil per acre, showing this to be a very promising type of fruit. The chemical section is devoting the major part of its time to the study of soil and oil-palm problems, collaborating where possible with other sections; and it is expected that these problems will continue to absorb the major part of the work of the chemists for the next few years. A Mycologist was added to the Department during the year, and the newly appointed Mycologist has been engaged in making a survey of the various plant diseases in Sierra Leone; much useful data on the various diseases has been collected.

The Division of Inspection has done good work during the year, and the quality of produce exported has considerably improved, and it is contemplated to increase the staff of the Division. Legislation for the further improvement of produce has been passed.

The Division of Entomology has carried out important work in connexion with the various insect pests of the crops.

The Government participated in the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, and the Lands and Forests Department was charged with the collection of the exhibits and of their presentation at Toronto. The Commissioner of Lands and Forests acted as Exhibition Commissioner, and subsequently toured through Canada and around the United States in the interests of Sierra Leone trade development. The Sierra Leone exhibit at Toronto was well received and created a good deal of interest in trade circles.

The Imperial Institute again rendered very valuable assistance to the Department in the examination of various products and by conducting inquiries which could not be undertaken locally.

VI.—Education.

Provision for all grades of Education shows steady growth in both Colony and Protectorate.

The following table gives figures of all primary schools which are either conducted or assisted by Government :—

Schools.	*No.*	*Number on Roll.*	*Average Attendance.*
Government	13	1,168	943
Church of England	36	3,160	2,221
Wesleyan Methodist	32	2,738	1,968
Roman Catholic	17	1,921	1,444
United Brethren-in-Christ	17	1,181	844
United Methodist	10	897	582
Mohammedan	5	676	405
Countess of Huntingdon	3	115	81
United Brethren in Africa	4	165	136
American Methodist Episcopal ...	2	177	141
American Wesleyan	2	79	76
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.	1	50	33
Amalgamated	1	64	47
	143	12,391	8,921

(a) *Colony.*

Government educational institutions in the Colony at the end of 1926 comprised :—

Secondary.—Prince of Wales School with 81 boys. With two European Masters and a fine laboratory, Science is given special attention.

Primary.—Freetown, Model School, with 168 boys and 48 girls.

Rural, Wilberforce, with 93 boys and 76 girls.
Waterloo, with 122 boys and 76 girls.
Benguema, with 48 boys and 39 girls.

Government-aided institutions were :—

Secondary.—

School.	*Controlling Authority.*	*Primary Classes.*	*Preparatory and Secondary Classes.*	*Total*
BOYS.				
*C.M.S. Grammar School ...	C.E.	41	154	195
*Wesleyan Boys' High School ...	Wes.	99	57	156
Albert Academy	U.B.C.	—	131	131
United Methodist Collegiate ...	U.M.C.	30	55	85
A.M.E. Seminary	A.M.E.	72	35	107
St. Edward's	R.C.	—	44	44
GIRLS.				
Annie Walshe Memorial ...	C.E.	137	56	193
St. Joseph's Convent	R.C.	39	75	114
Wesleyan Girls' High School ...	Wes.	36	55	91
*Girls' Vocational	Private.	18	12	30
Freetown Secondary School for Girls.	do.	68	12	80
*Mrs. Leigh's Girls' High School	do.	30	20	50
		570	706	1,276

* Non-aided.

Primary.—58 schools, with 4,188 boys and 2,952 girls.

In the Cambridge Local Examinations 19 entered for the Preliminary, and 10 passed; 57 entered for the Junior, and 26 passed; 42 entered for the School Certificated, and 18 passed.

Trade Schools.—In the Colony there are three schools undertaking trade preparation work :—

Albert Academy, taking carpentry and printing.

Church of England Technical School, taking carpentry and theoretical building construction, with 22 pupils.

Sir Alfred Jones (Government) Trades School, taking carpentry, with 16 pupils.

The A.M.E. Mission conducts a vocational school for girls, where cooking, laundering, and sewing work are taught to 64 pupils.

Fourah Bay College.—Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated to the University of Durham, prepares students for Degrees of Durham University. The staff consists of a European Principal, four African Tutors, and two European ladies who give occasional lectures. The number of students for the year was 24, of whom 12 were in residence.

(b) *Protectorate.*

Government conducts 10 schools, with the following numbers on the roll, boys only :—

1. Bo School, for sons and nominees of Chiefs ...	157
2. Njala, Agricultural School	94
3. Bumpe Primary School, under Bo	86

4. Baima Primary School, under Bo	19
5. Gambia Primary School, Vernacular	16
6. Pendembu Primary School —	40
7. Ngiema Primary School...	52
8. Gbamgbama Primary School	41
9. Jimmi Primary School	55
10. Zimmi Primary School	32

Of these the former, as a Boarding School, sets a high standard of all-round preparation for better citizenship in the Protectorate, and continues to turn out on the best native lines useful men for the duties of their Chiefdoms and other official and private occupations. Five of the ex-pupils are now Paramount Chiefs, and 80 are in employment under the Government of the Colony.

Njala Agricultural School, also Boarding, continues to give a sensible training for youths in the Protectorate, the pick of whom are appointed to positions as teachers in the Rural Schools.

Reports of the other Government schools are satisfactory.

72 Mission schools, with 3,001 boys and 1,082 girls, are receiving assistance from the Government. There are also 65 unassisted schools, mostly small, and often but poorly staffed.

Government Residential School for Sons of Chiefs at Bo.—Number of boys on roll at end of year, 155; 13 new boys being admitted during the year. Twelve pupils left to enter Government service as follows :—

Three, Assistant Masters.
Two, Clerks in Provincial Administration.
Three, School of Survey.
One, Medical Department.
One, Agricultural Division of Lands and Forests.
Two, Signallers.

There are now 91 in Government service.

2. Of ex-pupils in the Provincial Administration Service :—

Three passed Preliminary English Examination.
One passed Civil Service Promotion Examination.
Four passed Efficiency bar Examination.
Three passed Higher Mende Language Examination.
Two passed Higher Timne Examination.
One passed Higher Susu Examination.

3. There are five Paramount Chiefs ex-pupils of the school.

Government Day School at Bumpe.—Average attendance, 60.

Government Day School at Baima.—Average attendance, 17.

VII.—Government Departments and Institutions.

(a) *Hospitals and Asylums.*

The European Hospital in Freetown was closed in December, 1925, and a new hospital opened at Hill Station, with three wards of two beds each and one ward of five beds. There were 125 admissions during the year, of whom 37 were Government officials. These figures compare with 111 and 45 respectively for 1925.

The Connaught Hospital has continued its useful work, the three completed ward-blocks of the projected six being fully occupied. The total admissions were 1,867, of whom 251 were admitted to the maternity ward; the figures for 1925 were 1,860 and 263. Of the additional buildings in course of construction, the new out-patient block is nearing completion, and work on the medical stores and the medical and sanitary offices is well advanced. The out-patient block contains, in addition to general dispensary and out-patient accommodation, generous provision for X-ray, ophthalmic, venereal diseases clinic, and dental department, with pathological laboratory, museum, lecture room, &c.

The temporary out-patient department dealt with a total of 13,834 new cases during the year, with a total attendance of 46,010.

Lunatic Asylum, Kissy.—During the year, 62 patients were admitted and 11 died, the total number treated during the year being 148.

The Kissy infirmaries admitted 211 patients during the year; 266 cases in all were treated, and there were 46 deaths.

The Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe, with five wards totalling 20 beds, of which one ward of two beds is reserved for Europeans, had total admissions of 413 cases, with 18 deaths. The out-patient department dealt with 3,201 new cases, the total attendances numbering 8,959.

(b) *Post Office Savings Bank.*

The deposits numbered 10,745 of the value of £24,362 18*s*. 5*d*., an increase in number of 755 but a decrease in amount of £2,423 7*s*. 4*d*. as compared with 1925.

Withdrawals totalled 6,044 and amounted to £26,348 12*s*. 4*d*., showing an increase of 831 in number and a decrease in amount of £1,424 0*s*. 1*d*. in comparison with the previous year

The average value of each deposit was £2 5*s*. 4*d*. and of each withdrawal £4 7*s*. 2*d*., as against £2 13*s*. 7*d*. and £5 6*s*. 6*d*., respectively, in 1925.

During the year, 1,692 accounts were opened and 1,099 closed; the corresponding figures for 1925 were 1,530 and 1,305. At the end of the year, there were 5,819 depositors on the books and the amount standing to their credit was £62,128 18*s*. 1½*d*. The average value of each account was £10 13*s*. 6*d*.

The total sum invested is £61,655 18*s*. 8*d*. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,342 4*s*. 6*d*., and the interest capitalized and credited to depositors was £1,446 3*s*. 11*d*.

(c) *Port and Marine.*

During the year, a Committee discussed the question of placing light buoys off St. Ann Shoals and in the Sherbro River, and it is hoped that considerable improvements will be made in this respect in the near future.

A new Signal Station has been inaugurated near the Cape Lighthouse, and is fitted with a flagstaff for international code flag signalling, and also with a semaphore arm and morse lamp.

The station is in communication with the Harbour-Master's office by telephone.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of ships visiting Sherbro, and during the year no mishaps have occurred to vessels in the river.

The usual overhaul of buoys in the Sherbro River was carried out and the temporary beacons marking the Bomplake Channel are now being replaced by permanent ones.

VIII.—Judicial Statistics.

(a) *Police.*

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, similar work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1925, the Force consisted of a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, three Inspectors, three African Sub-Inspectors, and 303 Non-commissioned Officers and men.

The health of the Force was fairly satisfactory. There were 114 less sick reports and 237 fewer men admitted to hospital, but the number ordered "duty and treatment" increased by 123.

Discipline continues to improve and the alertness of the men shows marked improvement.

The following table shows the number of cases reported, arrests made, number of convictions and the percentage of convictions to arrests, for the last three years:—

Year.	*Cases reported.*	*Arrests made.*	*Convictions.*	*Percentage of convictions to arrests.*
1924	2,510	2,363	1,895	80·02
1925	2,476	2,336	1,783	76·32
1926	1,887	2,346	1,657	70·6

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the past two years :—

	1925.	*1926.*
Murder	—	1
Housebreaking	24	18
Burglary	19	15
Shopbreaking	6	12
Larceny	777	651
Receiving	55	53

(b) *Fire Brigade.*

The Fire Brigade was under the control of the City Council until the abolition of the latter in December, when it was placed in charge of the Commissioner of Police.

(c) *Prisons.*

The number of persons committed to Freetown Prison during the two years 1925 and 1926 was as follows :—

	1925.	*1926.*
Males	924	1,135
Females	24	9
Juveniles	37	5

The daily average number in custody during 1926 was :—

Males	298
Females	4

I attribute the substantial decrease in the number of juveniles committed to prison during 1926 to an effort made by the Courts not to send boys to prison for their first offence.

The health of the prisoners was good. There were no epidemics.

The number of persons committed to the Protectorate Prisons during 1926 was 849, as compared with 895 in 1925; the daily average for the year being 155, as against 184 for the previous year.

IX.—Vital Statistics.

(a) *European Population.*

The number of European residents during 1926 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	234
Non-officials*	390
Military	280

* This figure includes white Americans.

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 184, as compared with 180 in 1925. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths, from climatic and non-climatic causes, of Europeans in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Non-Military.		Military.		Total.
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1912... ...	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913... ...	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914... ...	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915... ...	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916... ...	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917... ...	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ...	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919... ...	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920... ...	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921... ...	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922... ...	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923† ...	—	—	4	1	2	—	7
1924... ...	1	—	3	2	2	—	8
1925... ...	1	1	3	2	—	1	8
1926‡ ...	2	2	1	6	1	—	12

* Influenza epidemic.

† (1923) In addition two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour : one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

‡ (1926) In addition one European died on board ship at Bonthe Harbour from a climatic cause.

(b) *Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality.*

	Population, 1921 Census.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*	*Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.*
Freetown	44,142	24	27·9	296
Colony, other than Freetown...	41,021	21	19·5	234

Owing to non-registration of many births, the " available " birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and, with a view to reducing it, " Infant Welfare " work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28.5 per cent. and 24.3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(c) *Sanitation.*

The port of Freetown was not in quarantine during the year. No cases of smallpox were reported in Freetown, or in any of the outstations. Chickenpox was fairly frequent both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

(d) *Record of Vaccinations Performed.*

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
Number vaccinated	21,517	9,636	10,367	13,669
" successful	10,294	4,925	4,806	7,491
" unsuccessful	4,266	2,052	3,226	3,873
" not inspected	6,957	2,659	2,335	2,305

No case of anthrax was reported in Freetown during the year.

There was a decrease of 22 in the number of cases of tuberculosis treated; 172 against 194 in 1925. The matter is still receiving careful study.

There was a mild outbreak of influenza in a girls' boarding school in the Protectorate.

No cases of smallpox were reported.

The Superintendent of Freetown Water Works reports that there was no actual shortage of water during the year, but the city was put on a restricted supply for several hours a day from the 6th to the 17th of May.

The maximum daily consumption recorded was 604,200 gallons on the 3rd of March and the minimum 302,300 gallons on the 15th of June.

(e) *Climate.*

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. It is not always damp, speaking generally, and there are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country.

There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August, and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 40 years are now available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands.

Average Rainfall, Freetown (Tower Hill).

Period.	*Average Rainfall. Inches.*
1882-1891	166.07
1892-1901	165.15
1902-1911	156.00
1912-1921	122.66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204.19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102.34 inches in 1914.

In December and January Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east "Trades," and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in 1926 was 129.33 inches; this is below the average for the past 40 years (152.47 inches).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 11.77 inches on 27th August. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 69 degrees on 4th August; the highest, 95 degrees on 29th May.

(f) *Conditions of Living in Sierra Leone.*

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis, and golf. As the country is hilly, cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as English meat, but when properly cooked it is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

A cold storage plant, from which fresh meat and fish, game, &c., can be procured, has been started by one of the European firms in Freetown.

(g) *Population (Colony and Protectorate).*

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) had increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9.8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902-11 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1902-11 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142, due in considerable measure to immigration from the Protectorate.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population, see "Political Administration."

X.—Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

(a) *Postal.*

The results of the year's work were not on the whole as satisfactory as in 1925. Postal business in all branches was adversely affected in the first place by the Railway Strike, which lasted for six weeks in January and February, during which the passenger train services were wholly discontinued, a service on alternate days in both directions by goods trains only being maintained after the first few days of complete stoppage; and further by the general slackness in trade which existed practically throughout the year.

The number of Post Offices and Agencies open at the end of the year was 69—one Post Office and five Agencies being opened during the year. Money-order business was transacted at 20 Offices and postal order business at 26.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,777,783, as compared with 1,746,932 in 1925. The total was made up as follows :—

	Letters.	*Post-cards.*	*Other articles.*	*Totals.*
Despatched to United Kingdom.	173,852	11,688	17,261	202,801
Received from United Kingdom.	185,351	4,928	205,331	395,610
Despatched to inter-Colonial Ports.	112,953	317	21,984	135,254
Received from inter-Colonial Ports.	119,702	507	8,593	128,802
Inland	809,064	3,752	102,500	915,316
Totals	1,400,922	21,192	355,669	1,777,783

The money-order transactions numbered 5,255 and amounted to £42,590. The details as compared with the previous year are shown below :—

	1925.		*1926.*	
	Number.	*Amount.* £	*Number.*	*Amount.* £
Received from Great Britain ...	514	2,622	446	2,069
Despatched to Great Britain ...	1,945	12,697	1,468	8,653
Received from West African Colonies.	642	7,558	605	6,977
Despatched to West African Colonies.	463	5,625	426	4,321
Inland	2,658	25,850	2,310	20,570
Totals...	6,222	£54,352	5,255	£42,590

Postal orders issued numbered 55,539 and amounted to £38,481, as compared with 59,064, value £40,109, in 1925; 46,190 orders, value £33,395, were paid, as against 47,483, value £33,831, the previous year.

A cash on delivery service for parcels only with Great Britain and Northern Ireland was instituted, and 4,794 parcels, value £11,240, were received from Great Britain, of which 233 were returned during the year as undeliverable for various reasons.

No such parcels were posted locally for Great Britain.

Postal revenue amounted to £13,215, an increase of £80 over 1925. Customs duties collected by the Department in respect of parcels totalled £7,710, and stamps to the value of £3,283 were sold in connection with Inland Revenue services.

The expenditure was £17,330, a decrease of £267 compared with 1925.

(b) *Telegraphs and Telephones.*

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department, of which the Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown. There is a telegraph service from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles) with important transmitting stations at Bauya (Boia) (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles). From Bauya (Boia) there is a telegraph service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles), from Bauya (Boia). From Mano, on the railway (106 miles from Freetown), there is a branch line through Sengama, Luawa, and Bendu, and thence by submarine cable across to Bonthe on Sherbro Island (74½ miles). From Sengama there is a branch line via Sumbuya to Pujehun (47 miles). There is also a branch of about 3 miles from Luawa on the Mano-Bonthe line in the Southern Province to Mattru.

From Songo (mile 32) on the railway there is a telephone to Port Lokko and thence to Mange and Kambia in the Northern Province.

There is a telephone service in Freetown with 106 circuits, the main exchange being in Water Street, and there is a sub-exchange at Hill Station.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1925 and 1926 (exclusive of messages sent on railway service) was :—

	1925.	*1926.*
Public telegrams	52,431	52,726
Government telegrams	17,089	17,826

The revenue from telegrams was £4,932, as compared with £5,265 in 1925.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and are sent through the office of the African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

The Telephone revenue in 1926 amounted to £2,133.

XI.—Communications.

(a) *Railways.*

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½	miles main line, Water Street to Pendembu.
104	miles branch line, Boia to Kamabai.
5½	miles hill station line.
1	mile branches to Ascension Town and Public Works
Total 338	

Approximately 17 miles of sidings, at stations, &c., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1926, was £1,707,852.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1924, 1925, and 1926 :—

	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
	£	£	£	£
General Revenue	168,418	219,046	231,889	228,527
Expenditure	90,155	198,307	176,482	175,392
	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
Receipts per train mile (in pence).	114·11	113·79	109·79	114·01*
Working expenses per train mile (in pence).	61·09	93·96	83·56	87·50*
	1913.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
Passengers carried ...	436,388	543,918	587,944	498,332
Tonnage carried	62,084	68,493	72,298	70,758

* Based on train mileage, earnings, and working expenses for the ten months March to December; figures for January and February not being available owing to the strike.

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 43 locomotives, 85 coaching vehicles, and 343 goods vehicles.

A strike, involving nearly the whole staff of the Locomotive, Engineering, and Traffic branches, and practically all the telegraph operators, was in progress from 14th January to 26th February. With eight exceptions, the clerical staff in the Head Offices were not affected.

The loyal members of the staff, assisted by newly-engaged men and volunteers, maintained a limited but satisfactory train service throughout the strike.

The conditions caused by the strike accounted largely for the decrease in passengers, but it will be seen that the tonnage of goods carried was not far short of the figures for the record year of 1925.

(b) *Roads.*

The folowing first-class roads have been completed or are under construction :—

	Miles.	
Moiamba-Sembehun	19	
Kumrabai—Pujehun	107	
Koribundu-Sumbuya	21	
Boadjibu-Blama-Hangha-Panguma	63	
Segbwema-Bandajuma-Gandorhun	37	(approx.)
Pendembu - Kanre Lahun - Moa River (French Frontier)	24	
Mano Saima (with branch to Njala—2 miles)	15⅓	
Zimi-Sulima	34	(approx.)
Kamabai-Kaballa	55	
Total	375⅓	

The Moiamba-Sembehun road is open for motor traffic throughout its length. There is one unbridged tidal creek between the terminus and Sembehun.

The Kumrabai-Pujehun road, which is still under construction, is completed between Monghery and Pujehun (75 miles). The Koribundu-Sumbuya road is complete and open for motor traffic. Of the Boadjibu-Blama-Hangha-Panguma road the sections Boadjibu-Blama, 24 miles, and Hangha-Panguma, 20 miles, are open for motor traffic, whilst 26 miles of the Segbwema-Bandajuma-Gandorhun road, and the whole of the Pendembu-Kanre Lahun-Moa River road have been bridged and are open to motors.

The Mano-Taima road with its branch to Njala, ending on the left bank of the Taia River, has been bridged and open to motor traffic.

(c) *Waterways.*

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable for light-draught vessels.

During the year 1926 the following improvements were carried out :—

(*a*) The bank above the Deah Rocks at Pujehun was cut back a maximum distance of 60 feet, giving a clear view between sighting targets and a straighter course through the channel.

(*b*) Channels were made through two or more reefs of rocks in the Taia River between Taiama and Mano.

XII.—Public Works.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Foremost among these were :—

(*a*) Erection of quarters for Nursing Sisters, European Hospital.

(*b*) Two quarters for Education Department, King Tom.

(*c*) Extension of Printing Office.

(*d*) Construction of new road, Campbell Street to Congo Town Cross Roads.

(*e*) King Tom Bridge and Joaque Bridge Protection Works.

(*f*) Completion of new bridge over Kissy Big Brook.

(*g*) Reconstruction of Nicols Bridge.

(*h*) Erection of new slaughter-house, Mabella.

(*i*) Erection of Power Station for electricity supply.

(*j*) Erection of steel bridges, Bo-Monghery road.

(*k*) Continuation of new Government Offices, George Street.

(*l*) Commencement of Agricultural College, Njala.

(*m*) Commencement of Outpatients, Administration, and Store Blocks, Connaught Hospital.

(*n*) Commencement of new Governor's Lodge—Hill Station.

XIII.—Freetown City Council.

As already stated, this Council was abolished in December as a result of the Commission of Inquiry held by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles O'Brien, K.C.M.G. It was replaced by the Freetown Temporary Municipal Board, created by Ordinance No. 43 of 1926

XIV.—Political Administration.

(a) *Colony.*

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in the vicinity, Sherbro and York Islands and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island, and Turner's Peninsula, although Colony, are administered as Protectorate (except an area of 10 square miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board) and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (*a*) Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (*b*) the Headquarters' Judicial District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Islands, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters' District (as well as the District

Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (i.e., of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows :—

District.	*Area.* *Sq. miles.*	*Population.*
Police (including Freetown)... ...	50	56,980
Headquarters	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281

(b) *Protectorate.*

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Central Province is sub-divided into four districts, and the Northern and Southern Provinces into five each, all under District Commissioners. The area and population of each Province are as follows :—

	Area. *Sq. miles.*	*Approximate Native Population.*
Northern	13,850	572,600
Central	7,570	594,150
Southern	5,560	300,650
Totals	26,980	1,467,400

The total European Political Staff is 31, consisting of four Provincial Commissioners, 14 District Commissioners, and 13 Assistant District Commissioners. Each Commissioner has at his disposal a clerk or clerks, as the case may be, and a detachment of Court Messengers. The Court Messenger Force, a disciplinary body of Protectorate natives, mostly ex-service soldiers, performs in the Protectorate such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties necessitated by the exigencies of Protectorate administration.

XV.—West African Frontier Force.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms part of the West African Frontier Force, of which His Majesty the King is Colonel-in-Chief.

The Battalion comes, in time of peace, under the orders of the Colonial Government, but whilst operating in Sierra Leone in time of war forms part of the Imperial Military Garrison, under the orders of the Officer Commanding the Troops, Freetown. The Battalion is inspected annually by the Inspector-General, West African Frontier Force, whose Headquarters are at the Colonial Office. This inspection is carried out with the object of ascertaining that there is uniformity of training in the Frontier Force, based as far as is practicable on the most modern methods adopted by the Imperial Army.

Establishment.

The establishment of the Battalion is at present as follows :—

Officers :—

1 Major Commanding.
3 Captains.
10 Subalterns (including an Adjutant and a Signalling Officer).

—
14
—

British Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers :—

1 Regimental Sergeant-Major.
1 Armourer Quartermaster Sergeant.
2 Company Sergeant-Majors.
1 Orderly Room Sergeant.
2 Company Quartermaster Sergeants.
1 Signal Sergeant.
4 Sergeants.

—
12
—

Rank and File :—

337 Native Rank and File.
26 Lewis Gun Carriers.

—
363

A total strength of 389 all ranks. Subject to the funds being available, the appointment of an Intelligence Officer for the Battalion, as also for the increase of the Reserve from 100 to 200, has been approved.

The reserve consists at present of 100 rank and file, specially selected for their military capabilities, none of whom has served for more than 12 years with the Colours. 45 per cent. of these men are employed in Government service as Court Messengers, Police, Forest Guards, &c., and it is presumed would not immediately be available for service with the Battalion on mobilization. The increase of the Reserve is therefore a military necessity.

Location.

The Headquarters of the Battalion and one Company are stationed at Daru in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, on the main line of the Railway, 213 miles from Freetown. The remaining Company is stationed at Makeni in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, on the branch line of the Railway and 148 miles from Freetown.

Intelligence.

The reorganization of the collation of Internal Intelligence work has been carried out this year, and some 20 new road reports have been issued to Route Book holders. On a prepared key map the roads have been subdivided into Motor, 1st Class, Secondary, etc., and numbered on the same system as a motor map in England, so that a trek can be worked out from one end of the Protectorate to the other from the map; reference to the indexed road reports in the Route Book provides detailed information as to roads, rest-houses, water supply, &c.

Agriculture.

A system of practical instruction in farming and the rotation of crops has been inaugurated this year with the assistance of the Agricultural Department. This instruction should prove of tremendous benefit to Sierra Leone in future years in ensuring first of all that all discharged soldiers have a thorough knowledge of the cultivation of crops such as cocoa, coffee, castor oil beans, oil palms, &c., for which there are good markets, and by the sale of which the revenue of the country should in future years benefit. The second, and possibly greater advantage, is that in making use of the Swamp area around Daru for swamp rice cultivation it is hoped to grow sufficient rice by 1929 to provide for the annual consumption in the Battalion, about 4,000 bushels, and thus make this Unit a self-supporting one. The swamp rice cultivation has actually commenced.

General.

The old and unique Regimental custom in the Battalion of the troops turning out nightly to sing the Lord's Prayer and "God save the King" is adhered to.

XVI.—Survey Department.

(a) *Topographical Branch.*

The following topographical survey work had already been completed on the 1st January, 1926 :—

Seven points had been fixed by astronomical and wireless methods;

150 miles of topographical level had been completed;

200 miles of traverse, with aneroid levels, had been run.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

33 points were fixed, at an average cost of £37 13*s*. per point;

430 miles of topographical level were completed, at a cost of £1 2*s*. per mile.

4,990 miles of traverse, together with aneroid levels, were run, at a cost of 16*s*. 4*d*. per mile. This amount of traverse mileage represents some 3,500 square miles of detail survey.

The wireless fixings and topographical levels carried out during the year cover an area considerably greater than that represented by 12 field sheets.

(b) *Cadastral Branch.*

The greater part of the survey of Freetown, a work commenced in September, 1925, was completed during the year.

(c) *Lands Branch.*

During the year the Lands section of the Public Works Department was transferred to the Survey Department.

(d) *Survey School.*

The Survey School, with 14 pupils, which was established at Kortright during the latter part of 1925, remained operative throughout the year.

(663—21) Wt. 15390—1009 500 11/27 H. S G. / 8

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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SIERRA LEONE

REPORT FOR 1927.

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Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9*d.* (10*d.*).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1927 to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6*d.* (8*d.*)

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series of publications on the problems connected with the marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the British Empire. The following six volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9*d.* (10*d.*); Meat, 9*d.* (10*d.*); Fruit, 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*); Dairy Produce, 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*); Fish, 6*d.* (8*d.*); Poultry, Eggs, Honey, 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6*d.* (7*d.*). The relationship between the Committee and the Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include Postage.

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1927.

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Geographical and Historical.

An account of the general geographical features of the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, together with a synopsis of its history, may be found in the Annual General Report for the year 1924.*

A map of the country will be found in the Report for the year 1921.†

I.—GENERAL.

From the financial point of view the year under review was more satisfactory than the previous year, the revenue (exclusive of Railway) showing an increase of £92,724 as compared with 1926. This is principally due to a revival of trade. Agricultural propaganda was carried on extensively throughout the year, special attention being paid, as in the previous year, to cocoa, coconuts, and swamp rice. Towards the end of the year marked progress was made in the development of road construction by the introduction of a number of "pioneer roads" (i.e., more roughly constructed roads suitable for six-wheeled motor lorries) for the purpose of feeding the railway with produce, chiefly palm kernels, from areas that had hitherto only been lightly tapped.

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* No. 1275 in the Colonial Reports Annual Series.

† No. 1150 in the Colonial Reports Annual Series.

On the 16th July, Sir Ransford Slater, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., left the Colony to assume the Governorship of the Gold Coast. From that date until the 23rd September the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke, C.M.G. On the 31st May, Brigadier-General Sir Joseph A. Byrne, K.B.E., C.B., was appointed Governor and assumed the administration upon his arrival in the country on the 24th September.

PLATINUM.

The discovery by Major N. R. Junner, Director of Geological Survey, of a very promising deposit of platiniferous metal in the alluvial areas of the Colony peninsula was one of great importance in a Colony hitherto regarded as possessing no valuable mineral resources, and has aroused considerable interest in mining circles (*vide* "Geological Survey").

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a) Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £719,637, as compared with £626,913 in 1926, being more than the original estimate by £44,431.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*
	£	£	£
Customs	539,299	452,675	533,532
Light Dues	12,597	14,516	15,784
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	16,290	16,205	15,424
House Tax Receipts	60,162	60,669	62,156
Fees of Court	24,464	26,390	33,367
Post Office	13,135	13,215	16,462
Rents	474	569	605
Interest	15,076	18,403	13,864
Miscellaneous	32,167	24,271	28,433
Land Sales	28	—	10
Reimbursement from Loan ...	—	—	—
Totals	£713,692	£626,913	£719,637

The revenue for the year 1927 shows an increase of £92,724 compared with the revenue of 1926, which is chiefly accounted for by a rise in Customs Receipts of £80,857 and may be ascribed principally to improvement in trade.

(b) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £754,610, compared with £770,784 in 1926, and was less than the original estimate by £83,589.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt ...	**83,018**	**83,018**	**14,635**
Pensions	**40,131**	**44,427**	**34,177**
Governor and Legislature	**6,909**	**6,905**	**7,084**
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	**20,049**	**19,936**	**24,436**
Provincial Administration	**61,079**	**63,905**	**66,105**
Treasury	**8,930**	**9,009**	**9,509**
Customs Department...	**21,728**	**22,419**	**23,001**
Audit	**4,460**	**4,800**	**5,509**
Port and Marine Department ...	**4,265**	**4,450**	**5,155**
Legal Department	**15,295**	**15,645**	**16,638**
Civil Police	**22,741**	**23,208**	**23,267**
Prisons...	**13,934**	**11,705**	**11,218**
Medical Department	**51,044**	**50,384**	**52,312**
Sanitary	**17,775**	**20,289**	**21,871**
Education	**30,766**	**33,817**	**38,504**
Post Office	**17,597**	**17,330**	**18,115**
West African Frontier Force ...	**22,585**	**39,450**	**38,206**
Railway Department...	—	—	**17,545**
Lands and Forests	**7,902**	**32,236**	**39,467**
Cadastral and Lands Department ...	—	—	**7,248**
Geological Department	—	—	**1,278**
Miscellaneous Services	**14,389**	**24,450**	**13,897**
Public Works Department (includes Protectorate Roads).	**32,078**	**38,349**	**40,877**
Public Works Recurrent (includes Protectorate Roads).	**20,027**	**48,882**	**51,209**
Public Works Extraordinary ...	**38,424**	**62,084**	**53,848**
Freetown Water Works	**6,964**	—	—
Survey of Freetown	**18**	—	**1,034**
Surveys	—	**4,504**	—
Electric Lighting of Freetown ...	—	**30,229**	—
Special Expenditure from Surplus Balances.	—	**59,353**	**62,877**
Loan Services...	—	—	**55,588**
Totals	**£406,107**	**£770,784**	**£754,610**

(c) Assets and Liabilities.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £283,556.

The principal items are :—	£	£
*Railway Department advance account	49,070	
Public Works Stores	23,609	
		72,679
Surplus Funds (invested)... ...	72,591	
Cash Balance—Treasurer's account	23,832	
Cash held by Crown Agents ...	124,000	

On the 31st December, 1927, the market value of the securities held in respect of surplus funds invested was £57,425.

*** For Railway Accounts, see under XI—Communications.**

(d) Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1927, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £389,153.

(e) Currency.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values: £1 and 10s.

The stock of the West African alloy coin at the commencement of the year was £65,311, and coin to the value of £81,250 was received from the Banks in respect of remittances or in exchange for currency notes. Coin to the face value of £46,800 was issued for their requirements, and £50,400 was received from the Currency Board. The balance on hand at the end of the year was £150,161.

Silver coin continued to be withdrawn from circulation. On the 1st January £4,305 was held in West African Currency Board stocks and £21,114 was paid in by the Banks during the year. Shipments amounting in the aggregate to £20,000 were made to England, leaving a balance on 31st December of £5,419.

The face value of currency notes in stock on the 1st January was £134,225, and £88,750 was received from the West African Currency Board during the year. Sums representing £205,567 were paid into Currency Board stocks by the Banks in payment of remittances or in exchange for alloy coin, and notes to the face value of £110,200 were issued to the Banks. Old notes to the face value of £276,292 were destroyed, leaving a balance at the close of the year of £42,050.

The face value of notes in circulation as calculated on those issued and redeemed locally was a minus sum of £483,405 11s. 0d. at 31st December, as against a minus sum of £888,038 11s. 0d. at the commencement of the year. This result is the effect of quantities of notes issued in other British West African Colonies being landed here from ships on the homeward voyage, and remittances of currency notes being made from adjacent foreign colonies, much of which reached those colonies from sources other than Sierra Leone. This caused the redemption at this currency centre of large sums in excess of the face value of notes issued.

A sum of £25,882 was received from the West African Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income of investments during the year under review.

(f) Banking.

There are two Banks—the Bank of British West Africa, and Barclays Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both Banks.

Each Bank has a savings-bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES, AND SHIPPING.

(a) Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1927 was £2,112,024 as compared with £1,844,122 in 1926.

The following tables show the value of the imports for the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925. £	*1926.* £	*1927.* £
Commercial Imports	1,686,078	1,358,780	1,588,615
Government Imports	255,236	267,261	292,209
Specie	237,147	218,081	231,200
Totals	£2,178,461	£1,844,122	£2,112,024

	1925. £	*1926.* £	*1927.* £
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	427,460	435,461	445,949
Raw materials, and articles mainly unmanufactured.	178,138	118,789	255,7[illegible]3
Articles mainly manufactured ...	1,329,461	1,069,114	1,177,052
Miscellaneous	6,255	2,639	1,910
Specie	237,147	218,119	231,320
Totals	£2,178,461	£1,844,122	£2,112,024

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1925	38,251
1926	45,234
1927	45,141

The value of spirits, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :—

	Per cent.		*Per cent.*
1913	5·18	1921	2·18
1914	3·26	1922	2·88
1915	4·47	1923	1·54
1916	4·09	1924	1·10
1917	3·57	1925	1·25
1918	4·27	1926	1·61
1919	2·83	1927	1·42
1920	2·05		

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 20,082 tons, as against 15,684 tons in 1926.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 6,254 tons.

The following table shows the imports for home consumption of cotton piece goods during the years 1913 to 1927 :—

Year.	Quantity, Yards.	Value, C.I.F. £	Duty obtained. £	Rate of Duty. Per cent.
1913	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10–12½
1916	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	5,712 489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15–20–25
1922	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25
1924*	7,239,117	308,372	70,050	25†
1925	10,196,326	430,987	80,401	20
1926	6,142,212	247,604	45,771	20
1927	9,376,122	317,934	58,265	20

* Up to and including 1923 the quantity is shown in linear yards ; the 1924 to 1927 figures represent square yards.

† Until 27th November, 1924, when it was reduced to 20 per cent.

OTHER COTTON GOODS.

Year.	Value, C.I.F. £	Duty obtained. £	Rate of Duty. Per cent.
1913	158,196	14,510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10–12½
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,262	15–20–25
1922	56,348	12,696	25
1923	86,520	20,108	25
1924	95,607	21,290	25*
1925	114,350	21,675	20
1926	95,519	17,155	20
1927	127,114	22,851	20

* Duty reduced to 20 per cent. on the 27th November, 1924.

(b) Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to £1,767,259 compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,871,446 in 1926. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel ; such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1925. £	*1926.* £	*1927.* £
Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	1,627,916	1,562,525	1,527,077
Coal	66,211	40,485	36,831
Other British and Foreign manufactures.	94,045	110,636	153,151
Specie	32,463	157,800	50,200
Totals	£1,820,635	£1,871,446	£1,767,259

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the last three years :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*
Benniseed (tons)	62	19	141
Cocoa, raw (tons)	50	41	77
Ginger (cwt.)	49,260	55,265	27,354
Hides (cwt.)	170	337	141
Kola nuts (tons)	2,442	3,015	4,461
Palm kernels (tons)	63,231	65,000	65,436
Palm oil (tons)	2,988	2,865	3,609
Pepper (tons)	18	20	32
Piassava (tons)	2,166	2,083	2,418
Rice (bushels)	572	2,051	10,525

The "balance of trade" figures for the last five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	*Total Imports, less Specie.* £	*Re-exports, less Specie.* £	*Net Imports.* £	*Exports of the Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.* £	*Excess of Net Imports over Domestic Exports.* £	*Excess of Domestic Exports over Net Imports.* £
1923 ...	1,660,144	200,690	1,459,454	1,347,115	112,339	—
1924 ...	1,635,597	160,382	1,475,575	1,510,353	—	34,778
1925 ...	1,941,314	160,256	1,781,058	1,627,916	153,142	—
1926 ...	1,626,041	151,121	1,474,920	1,562,525	—	87,605
1927 ...	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—

Kola nuts.—Shipments amounted to 9,993,030 lb. or 4,461 tons, valued at £268,915, as compared with 6,753,766 lb. or 3,015 tons, valued at £246,725, in 1926.

Nigeria is still the largest purchaser, taking 44 per cent., French Senegal 28 per cent. and Gambia 26 per cent.

The following table shows the exports of kolas to the three principal countries during the last five years :—

	1923. *lb.*	*1924.* *lb.*	*1925.* *lb.*	*1926.* *lb.*	*1927* *lb.*
Nigeria	1,359,643	1,767,200	2,172,633	2,443,551	4,430,682
Gambia	2,531,718	1,785,875	1,371,418	2,058,588	2,602,861
Senegal	1,557,544	1,893,604	1,764,270	2,071,130	2,758,271

The figures in the above table show clearly the steady development of this trade with Nigeria.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 65,436 tons, which is the largest quantity shipped in any year from the Colony, being an increase of 436 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,077,450, being £39,330 less than in 1926. The fall in value was due to lower prices in the European market which averaged only £19 17s. 0d. per ton as compared with £20 6s. 0d. in 1926. The development in exports was not affected by the increase of 10s. per ton in the export duty from 1st September, 1927. The United Kingdom took only 27,664 tons, or 42·3 per cent., as compared with 36,487 tons, or 56·1 per cent., in 1926, whilst Germany increased her purchases from 28,111 tons in 1926 to 37,314 tons in 1927 which amounts to 57 per cent. of the total export. This large increase was due to the fact that higher prices were offered in the Hamburg market than in the United Kingdom.

Exports of palm kernels since 1913 :—

		Tons.			*Tons.*
1913	...	49,201	1921	...	40,409
1914	...	35,915	1922	...	49,029
1915	...	39,624	1923	...	59,545
1916	...	45,316	1924	...	61,117
1917	...	58,020	1925	...	63,231
1918	...	40,816	1926	...	65,000
1919	...	50,622	1927	...	65,436
1920	...	50,425			

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 3,609 tons, valued at £98,179, as against 2,865 tons, valued at £89,032, being an increase of 844 tons over shipments recorded in 1926. As with kernels, shipments were greater than in any other year.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last twenty years :—

PALM KERNELS.

		Per ton.			*Per ton.*
		£			£
1908	...	13·00	1918	...	26·00
1909	...	14·00	1919	...	35·50
1910	...	18·00	1920	...	38·00
1911	...	18·00	1921	...	20·00
1912	...	19·00	1922	...	17·50
1913	...	22·00	1923	...	18·75
1914	...	19·00	1924	...	21·00
1915	...	16·00	1925	...	21·50
1916	...	22·00	1926	...	20·25
1917	...	25·00	1927	...	19·85

PALM OIL.

		Per ton. £			Per ton. £
1908	...	22·00	1918	...	49·00
1909	...	22·00	1919	...	70·00
1910	...	31·00	1920	...	64·00
1911	...	30·00	1921	...	33·66
1912	...	27·00	1922	...	35·66
1913	...	30·00	1923	...	35·75
1914	...	29·00	1924	...	39·83
1915	...	30·00	1925	...	40·50
1916	...	36·00	1926	...	37·75
1917	...	44·00	1927	...	33·80

Ginger.—Exports of ginger amounted to 27,354 cwt., valued at £25,981, as compared with 55,265 cwt., valued at £72,019, in 1926. When it is remembered that the 1926 figures indicated great depression in this trade the figures for 1927 are sufficiently eloquent.

15,607 cwt., valued at £14,930, were shipped to the United Kingdom; 6,801 cwt., valued at £6,301, to the United States of America; 1,345 cwt., valued at £1,402, to Canada; 1,309 cwt., valued at £1,304, to Germany; and 1,329 cwt., valued at £1,156, to France.

(c) Direction of Trade.

Of the total import trade £1,296,475, or 61·38 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 60·88 per cent. in 1926. £242,332, or 11·47 per cent., was with the United States of America, as compared with 11·02 in 1926; foreign West African possessions sent £101,119 or 4·79 per cent.

Of the export trade £603,748, or 34·16 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £650,614, or 36·81 per cent., to Germany; £228,912, or 12·95 per cent., to British West African possessions; and £33,071, or 1·87 per cent., to the United States of America.

(d) Shipping.

The persistent increase in shipping tonnage during the last few years has been remarkable. The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing has doubled since 1921 and has developed steadily without any of the set-backs which have occasionally befallen the general trade of the Colony.

Although her percentage proportion of total was again reduced, the United Kingdom still predominates with 66·01 per cent., and there was an actual increase in tonnage over the figures for 1926 of 121,295.

Holland retained second place and increased her percentage to 10·12 per cent. Germany ranked third with 7·33 per cent.; the United States of America following with 6·55 per cent.

French vessels contributed 5·74 per cent. to the total tonnage entered, Italy's share amounting to 3·19 per cent. The French vessels trade with Marseilles, while the American vessels maintain a regular service between New York and various West African ports.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered from and cleared to foreign ports in the years 1926 and 1927 :—

Vessels Entered.

Ports.	*1926.*		*1927.*		*Increase.*		*Decrease.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown ...	729	2,004,270	801	2,228,806	72	224,536	—	—
Sherbro ...	2	3,209	6	17,589	4	14,380	—	—
Mano Salija ...	50	13,211	18	17,796	—	4,585	32	—
Sulima... ...	4	5,997	1	1,927	—	—	3	4,070
Totals ...	785	2,026,687	826	2,266,118	41	239,431	—	—

Vessels Cleared.

Ports.	*1926.*		*1927.*		*Increase.*		*Decrease.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown ...	719	1,993,338	776	2,182,530	57	189,192	—	—
Sherbro ...	5	9,640	24	55,267	19	45,627	—	—
Mano Salija ...	51	18,376	21	22,247	—	3,871	30	—
Sulima ...	6	10,018	2	2,876	—	—	4	7,142
Totals ...	781	2,031,372	823	2,262,920	42	231,548	—	—

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-nine Ordinances were enacted during the year 1927. Of these twenty-nine either amended or repealed existing measures, two dealt with supply, and the eight remaining Ordinances related to subjects which had not hitherto formed the subject of legislation.

The following were the most important of these latter enactments :—

(1) *The Survey Ordinance* provides for the licensing of qualified surveyors and the recording and co-ordination of their work and generally for the proper carrying out of all surveys in the Colony and Protectorate.

(2) *The Arbitration Ordinance* which is based on the English Arbitration Act has been enacted for the purpose of settling disputes by arbitration and supplies a legislative deficiency which has been existing for some considerable time.

(3) *The Minerals Ordinance* was enacted in view of the inadequate legal provisions relating to minerals which were in force under the Concessions Ordinance. The Ordinance provides legislation on the lines of similar legislation in force in other parts of the Empire on this subject, and reserves royalties to the Crown in respect of all minerals obtained.

(4) *The Domestic Loans Ordinance* provides for the raising of a loan for certain public works and other undertakings.

As regards amending legislation, the principal measures enacted are as follows:—

(1) *The Protectorate Land Ordinance.*—This Ordinance was enacted in order to simplify the law relating to the tenure of land by non-natives in the Protectorate and repeals the vague and unsatisfactory legislation which was previously in force.

(2) *The Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance.*—This Ordinance was enacted in order to facilitate and improve the administration of justice in the Courts of the District Commissioners by incorporating in the principal Ordinance various provisions relating to procedure from the Magistrates Courts Ordinance. The jurisdiction of the Protectorate Magistrate has also been extended to certain offences which were previously only punishable on summary conviction in the Colony.

(3) *The Freetown Municipality Ordinance* repeals the existing enactment providing for the management of the affairs of the city of Freetown and replaces the former City Council by an entirely new Council. Many of the powers and duties conferred by this Ordinance are similar however to those exercised and discharged by the former administration.

(4) *The Legal Status of Slavery (Abolition) Ordinance* finally precludes any Court from recognising the status of slavery in any form.

Fifty-two subordinate legislative measures were also brought into operation during the year.

V.—LANDS AND FORESTS.

The various divisions of the Lands and Forests Department have pursued and developed the various schemes outlined in the 1926 Report.

The Division of Agriculture has continued experimental work at Njala on problems connected with fertilisers and rotations. Investigations into the yielding capacity of various types of oil palm are being conducted and selection work continued on local varieties of cotton, while a selected stock of citrus fruits has been obtained for the purposes of future propagation. The new Agricultural College at Njala has not yet been completed and the apprentices are still occupying temporary buildings.

Coconut planting has been pushed ahead in the Southern Province and over 159,000 seedlings have been planted out in various small native-owned plantations. Cocoa planting has been encouraged in suitable localities and during 1927 some 77 tons of cocoa were exported. The cultivation of coffee and castor beans has also been extended.

Owing to the slump in the ginger market only half the ginger crop was disposed of. The rice crops were generally good and the further cultivation of swamp rice is being encouraged. Oil palm demonstration plots are being extended and data from established plots are being kept.

The activities of the Division of Forests have again been hampered by shortage of staff, due to leave and other causes, and only a small amount of new reservation work has been done. The Malal West Reserve (1.31 square miles) was demarcated and constituted, and the demarcations of the Gola North and Gori Hills proposed reserves were continued. Preliminary surveys of the Mamba and Kissi Mountains and the Singamba Ridge were carried out. Some 10,000 seedlings of local species were planted out experimentally and a beginning was made in experiments in regeneration with the aid of rice farmers.

Work, other than forestry, was carried out by the Forestry Division. A beginning was made in the establishing of a 2,000 acre oil palm plantation at Mabang; 300 acres were planted and extensive nursery preparations were made. The tapping of the Kenema rubber plantation was carried on with satisfactory results. A forest officer spent some time examining possible sites for fruit farms in the Colony, and also visited French Guinea and submitted an informative report.

The Division of Research continued its programme. The chemical section devoted the major part of its time to a study of Sierra Leone soils. The soils of the Colony are chiefly laterites or lateritic soils and very little is known about the relation between the chemical properties of these soils and their agricultural possibilities. The object of the research work is therefore to discover these relationships with a view to applying the knowledge to agricultural problems. A paper dealing with the composition of laterite and lateritic soils in Sierra Leone was published in the "Journal of Agricultural Science" during 1927. Soil survey work has continued, and up to the present time some 1,500 samples of soil from all parts of the country have been examined; it is hoped that a soil survey of the Colony and Protectorate will be published during 1928.

During the year the survey of the piassava industry was made, native methods were investigated and recommendations were made for the improvement of the fibre by means of better methods of preparation. A pamphlet on the piassava industry was prepared and is now in the hands of the printers.

Working in collaboration with the mycological section, the chemical section has been investigating the productivity in oil and kernels of the oil palm plantations at Njala. The chief results obtained are those from a plantation grown from good quality fruit imported from Nigeria, and the results from the seven year old plantation show that yields of oil compare very favourably with the data given for Sumatra by Messrs. Auchinleck and Waters at the West African Agricultural Conference.

In addition to work connected with oil palms the mycological section has been engaged on a study of fungus diseases affecting vegetable and garden plants. Many specimens of fungi were sent to England and determinations of most have been received. Further, about 500 herbarium specimens were collected during the year and most of these have been identified. Particular attention has been given to grasses and sedges.

The Entomologist has pursued his investigations on crop pests. The position with regard to coconut scale has improved, while ginger scale has been studied and a remedy discovered. Work on kola pests, locusts, termites and nematodes is in progress and instructions were given to agricultural apprentices and others in the use of insecticides.

Approval has been obtained for an increase of the staff of the Division of Inspection by the appointment of an Assistant Inspector and of six Sub-Inspectors. The work of this Division has resulted in a noticeable increase in the quality of the produce exported.

VI.—EDUCATION.

Provision for all grades of education shows steady growth in both Colony and Protectorate.

The following table gives figures of all primary schools which are either conducted, or assisted, by Government :—

Schools.	*No.*	*Number on Roll.*	*Average Attendance.*
Government	14	1,372	1,082
Church of England	34	3,360	2,294
Wesleyan Methodist	28	2,866	2,050
Roman Catholic	14	2,076	1,540
United Brethren-in-Christ	16	1,151	877
United Methodist	8	693	480
Mohammedan	5	695	492
Countess of Huntingdon	3	90	82
United Brethren-in-Africa	1	68	53
American Methodist Episcopal ...	2	224	176
American Wesleyan	2	90	82
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.	1	67	44
Amalgamated	5	434	316
Totals	133	13,186	9,568

(a) Colony.

Government Educational institutions in the Colony at the end of the year comprised :—

Secondary :—

Prince of Wales's School with 78 boys, two European Masters, and a fine laboratory. Science is given special attention.

Primary:—

Freetown Model School: 208 boys and 55 girls.

Rural:—

Wilberforce, with 87 boys and 86 girls.
Waterloo, with 133 boys and 95 girls.
Benguma, with 47 boys and 41 girls.

Government-aided institutions were:—

Secondary:—

School.	*Controlling Authority.*	*Primary and Preparatory Classes.*	*Secondary Classes.*	*Total.*
Boys.				
*C.M.S. Grammar School ...	C.E.	40	173	213
*Wesleyan Boys' High School ...	Wes.	10	148	158
Albert Academy	U.B.C.	39	59	98
St. Edward's	R.C.	15	35	50
A.M.E. Seminary	A.M.E.	44	41	85
Girls				
Annie Walsh Memorial ...	C.E.	122	92	214
St. Joseph's	R.C.	120	142	262
Girls' High School	Wes.	52	16	68
Freetown Girls' Secondary ...	Private.	95	20	115
Girls' Institute	A.M.E.	30	48	78
*Girls' Vocational	Private.	23	15	38
*Mrs. Reuben Johnson's ...	do.	36	24	60
*Mrs. Leigh's Girls' School ...	do.	35	20	55
Totals		661	833	1,494

* Non-aided.

Primary:—

56 schools, with 4,536 boys and 3,153 girls.

In the Cambridge Local Examinations 18 entered for the Preliminary, and 8 passed; 47 entered for the Junior and 27 passed; 22 entered for the School Certificate and 9 passed.

TRADE SCHOOLS.

In the Colony there are three schools undertaking trade preparation work:—

Albert Academy, taking carpentry and printing;

Church of England Technical School, taking carpentry and theoretical building construction, with 25 pupils;

Sir Alfred Jones (Government) Trades School, taking carpentry, with 16 pupils.

The A.M.E. Mission conducts a vocational school for girls where cooking and laundering is taught to 78 pupils.

Fourah Bay College.

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated to the University of Durham, prepares students for the Pass Degrees of Durham University. The Staff consists of a European Principal, four African Tutors, and two European ladies who give occasional lectures. The number of students for the year was 18, of whom 12 were in residence.

Provision has been made for the training of male teachers for the primary schools in the Colony. A Normal Master has been appointed and Government is making special grants to assist the Council in their endeavours to bring the curriculum more into line with the requirements of local conditions.

Provision has also been made to train female teachers at the Wesleyan Girls' High School. The accommodation is very limited but the Mission Authorities are about to erect a new building at their own expense costing approximately £2,000. The Government provide funds for the payment of three European Mistresses.

(b) Protectorate.

Government had 10 schools but in the latter part of the year it was decided to close the school at Gbamgbama owing to the adverse reports received from the District Commissioner.

The numbers on roll were as follows :—

1.	Bo School, for sons and nominees of Chiefs ...	159
2.	Njala Agricultural College	130
3.	Bumpe, Primary School, under Bo	65
4.	Baima, Primary School, under Bo	35
5.	Gambia, Primary School, Vernacular	16
6.	Pendembu, Primary School	45
7.	Ngiema, Primary School	44
8.	Gbamgbama, Primary School	30
9.	Jimmi, Primary School	71
10.	Zimmi, Primary School	25

Of these the former as a boarding school sets a high standard of all-round preparation for better citizenship in the Protectorate, and continues to turn out useful men for the duties of their Chiefdoms and other official and private occupations. Five of the ex-pupils are now Paramount Chiefs, and 91 are in employment under the Government of the Colony.

Njala Agricultural School, also boarding, continues to give a sensible training for youths in the Protectorate, the pick of whom are appointed to positions as teachers in the rural schools, but owing to the congested state of the grounds it may be found necessary to remove this school to a more favourable and central position in the near future.

Reports of the other Government schools are satisfactory.

67 Mission schools (primary, secondary, and industrial), with 3,279 boys and 1,254 girls, are receiving assistance from the Government. There are also 74 unassisted schools, mostly small and often but poorly staffed.

Government Residential School for sons of Chiefs at Bo.—The number of boys on roll at the end of the year was 159; the number of new pupils admitted during the year was 26, which is a record.

The distribution of pupils from each Province is as follows:—

Central Province	69
Northern Province	68
Southern Province	22
Total	159

Nine pupils left to enter Government service as follows:—

Three, School of Survey;

Two, Inspection Division of the Lands and Forests Department;

Two, Medical Department;

One, Agricultural Division of the Lands and Forests Department;

One, Interpreter, Provincial Administration.

VII.—GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

(a) Hospitals and Asylums.

The numbers of cases treated at the European Hospital at Hill Station show a steady increase.

	Total admissions.	*Government officials.*
1925	111	37
1926	125	45
1927	136	51

The Connaught Hospital is now too small for the demands upon it, and a new ward-block has been approved for erection in 1928. The appointment of a Surgical Specialist to this hospital has caused a great increase in the number of patients applying for operative treatment. The figures for the past three years are as follows:—

	Admissions.	*Maternity Section.*
1925	1,860	263
1926	1,867	251
1927	2,046	301

The new out-patient block was not ready for occupation by the close of the year, as expected, but will be open early in 1928. The temporary out-patient department dealt with 14,780 new cases and 49,560 total attendances during the year, as against 13,834 and 46,010, respectively, in 1926.

Lunatic Asylum, Kissy.

During the year, 55 patients were admitted and 10 died, the total number treated during the year being 145.

The Kissy infirmaries admitted 161 patients during the year; 235 cases in all were treated, and there were 51 deaths.

The Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe, with five wards totalling 40 beds, of which one ward of two beds is reserved for Europeans, had a total admission of 464 cases, with 16 deaths. The out-patient department dealt with 4,078 new cases, the total attendances numbering 19,112.

(b) Post Office Savings Bank.

The deposits numbered 11,436, of the value of £25,831 12s. 1d. as compared with 10,745 value £24,362 18s. 5d. in 1926.

Withdrawals totalled 6,134 and amounted to £25,365 13s. 4d. as against 6,044 value £26,348 12s. 4d. the previous year.

The average value of each deposit was £2 5s. 2d., and of each withdrawal £4 2s. 8d., compared with £2 5s. 4d. and £4 7s. 2d., respectively, in 1926.

During the year 1,756 accounts were opened and 1,165 were closed, and the corresponding figures for 1926 were 1,692 and 1,099.

At the end of the year there were 6,410 depositors on the books and the amount to their credit was £64,030 2s. 3½d. (an increase of 591 accounts and £1,901 4s. 2d. for the year), and the average value of each account was £[illegible] 9s. 9d.

The total sum invested was £61,697 18s. 8d.

The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,348 4s. 3d. and the interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,4[illegible] 5s. 5d.

(c) Port and Marine.

During the year the lighthouses, buoys, and beacons were maintained in an efficient condition. A new buoy was laid in place of No. 7 buoy, Sherbro River, the old buoy being found unfit for further service and condemned.

There was a marked increase in Sherbro shipping over previous years and the revenue from pilotage receipts for the year amounted to £1,463 10s. 0d. A serious mishap occurred to the s.s. "Burutu" in the Sherbro River. This vessel stranded near Buoy Point whilst proceeding up the river without a pilot.

The signal station at the Cape Lighthouse worked successfully and has proved to be a big improvement over the old look-out-station on Signal Hill.

VIII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(a) Police.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, similar work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1927, the Force consisted of a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, four Inspectors, three African Sub-Inspectors, and 307 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The health of the Force has slightly improved; 32 fewer reported sick than the previous year, seven less were admitted into hospital, and 25 fewer were ordered "duty and treatment."

A good standard of discipline was maintained during the year. It is no uncommon thing now for Constables to report attempts made to bribe them, which formerly was practically unknown.

The following table shows the number of cases reported, arrests made, number of convictions and the percentage of convictions to arrests for the last three years:—

Year.	*Cases reported.*	*Arrests made.*	*Convictions.*	*Percentage.*
1925	2,476	2,336	1,783	76·32
1926	1,887	2,346	1,657	70·6
1927	2,209	2,259	1,815	80·3

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the past two years:—

	1926.	1927.
Murder	1	Nil.
Manslaughter	Nil.	3
Housebreaking	18	2
Burglary	15	2
Shopbreaking	12	4
Larceny	651	331
Receiving	53	25

(b) Fire Brigade.

The Commissioner of Police took over the superintendency of the Fire Brigade on the 1st of March, since when it has shown steady improvement in appearance, equipment, and efficiency and now performs its duties in a creditable manner.

(c) Prisons.

The number of persons committed to Freetown Prison during the years 1926 and 1927 was as follows:—

	1926.	1927.
Males	1,135	850
Females	9	14
Juveniles	5	3

The daily average number in custody during the same period was:—

	1926.	1927.
Males	298	295
Females	4	3

The general health of the prisoners was very good and the prison hospital was closed for several long periods. There was no epidemic.

The number of persons committed to the Protectorate prisons during the years 1926 and 1927 was :—

1926.	1927.
849	696

The daily average number in custody during the same period was :—

1926.	1927.
156	138

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) European Population.

The number of European residents during 1927 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	300
Non-officials*	500
Military	193

* This figure includes white Americans.

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 250, as compared with 184 in 1926. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths, from climatic and non-climatic causes, of Europeans in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

Year.	*Landed from Vessels.*		*Non-Military.*		*Military.*		*Total.*
	Climatic.	*Non-Climatic.*	*Climatic.*	*Non-Climatic.*	*Climatic.*	*Non-Climatic.*	
1912 ...	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ...	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ...	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ...	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ...	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ...	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ...	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ...	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ...	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921 ...	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922 ...	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923† ...	—	—	4	1	2	—	7
1924 ...	1	—	3	2	2	—	8
1925 ...	1	1	3	2	—	1	8
1926‡ ...	2	2	1	6	1	—	12
1927 ...	3	1	4	2	—	1	11

* Influenza epidemic.

† (1923) In addition two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour : one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

‡ (1926) In addition one European died on board ship at Bonthe Harbour from a climatic cause.

(b) Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality.

	Population, 1921 Census.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*	*Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.*
Freetown	44,142	22·8	29·2	351·4
Colony, other than Freetown...	41,021	20·7	19	210·3

Owing to non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and with a view to reducing it "Infant Welfare" work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(c) Sanitation.

The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Owing to the prevalence of yellow fever and plague in several West African Colonies, both to the northward and southward of Sierra Leone, port health work was exceptionally heavy. Passengers arriving from infected ports were kept under strict surveillance and, where necessary, their baggage was disinfected. One case of smallpox was landed in Freetown from a steamer from Nigeria.

There were minor outbreaks of smallpox in the Kono and Makeni districts of the Protectorate.

Pneumonia and bronchitis have an appreciable effect on the death-rate, especially in the early months of the year when the dry north-east wind (Harmattan) prevails. The Superintendent of Freetown Waterworks reports that there was no shortage of water during the year. The total consumption for all purposes was 158,000,000 gallons, including upwards of 5,000,000 gallons supplied to shipping.

(d) Record of Vaccinations performed.

	1924.	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
Number vaccinated	9,636	10,367	13,669	13,389
" successful	4,925	4,806	7,491	8,109
" unsuccessful	2,052	3,226	3,873	2,716
" not inspected	2,659	2,335	2,305	2,564

(e) Climate.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. There are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country.

There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August, and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 40 years are available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands :—

AVERAGE RAINFALL, FREETOWN (TOWER HILL).

Period.	*Average Rainfall.* *Inches.*
1882-1891	166·07
1892-1901	165·15
1902-1911	156·00
1912-1921	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 inches in 1914.

In December and January Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east "Trades," and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in Freetown in 1927 was 135·12 inches: this is below the average for the past 40 years (152·47 inches).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 8·96 inches on 12th July. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 66 degrees on 30th January; the highest, 95 degrees on 11th February.

(f) Conditions of living in Sierra Leone.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis and golf. As the country is hilly cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as English meat, but when properly cooked it is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

A cold-storage plant, from which fresh meat and fish, game, etc., can be procured, has been started by one of the European firms in Freetown.

(g) Population (Colony and Protectorate).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) had increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902-11 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1902-11 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142, due in considerable measure to immigration from the Protectorate.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population, see "Political Administration."

X.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

(a) Postal.

There was a very considerable expansion of postal business under all heads throughout the year, resulting in record revenue receipts —over £2,000 more than the previous highest. In the main, these results are a measure of the public appreciation of the additional facilities provided in the last three years, and indicate that considerable further progress may be anticipated.

The number of post offices and agencies open at the end of the year was 72 (22 and 50, respectively), four new agencies being opened during the year and one closed owing to the difficulty in obtaining a suitable person to perform the duties. Money-order business was transacted at 24 offices and postal order business at 52.

The postage rate on letters addressed to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Empire countries was increased from 1½d. for the first ounce and 1d. for each additional ounce or part thereof, to 2d. and 1½d., respectively, as from 1st November.

The air-mail service via Dakar for Morocco, France, England and Europe was frequently made use of during the year and facilities for despatch of such mails to Algeria were provided as from 1st May.

The estimated revenue and expenditure for 1927 and the actual revenue and expenditure for each of the years 1924-27 are shown below :—

REVENUE.

	Estimated.	*Actual.*	*Actual Revenue.*		
	1927.	*1927.*	*1926.*	*1925.*	*1924.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Net Postal Revenue ...	14,825	16,462	13,215	13,135	11,952
Customs Duties collected on parcels.	8,500	9,887	7,708	7,926	8,135
Sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.	—	3,928	3,285	3,186	3,417
Total Collections ...	—	£30,277	£24,208	£24,247	£23,504

EXPENDITURE.

Estimated.	*Actual.*	*Actual Expenditure.*		
1927.	*1927.*	*1926.*	*1925.*	*1924.*
£	£	£	£	£
£17,929	£18,115	£17,330	£17,597	£17,570

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year is estimated at 1,882,290 as against 1,777,783 in 1926, an increase of 104,507. The total was made up as follows :—

	Letters.	*Post Cards.*	*Other Articles.*	*Totals.*
Despatched to England	177,682	7,311	17,369	202,362
Received from England	217,420	5,961	246,539	469,920
Despatched to Inter-Colonial Ports.	113,068	437	25,480	138,985
Received from Inter-Colonial Ports.	120,109	949	7,923	128,981
Inland	828,492	3,876	109,674	942,042
Totals	1,456,771	18,534	406,985	1,882,290

There were 106,374 registered articles included in the above figures (100,768 in 1926).

The money-order transactions numbered 5,708 and amounted to £47,768. The details as compared with 1926 are shown below :—

	1927.		*1926.*	
	Number.	*Amount.*	*Number.*	*Amount.*
		£		£
Received from England	495	2,993	446	2,069
Despatched to England	1,477	8,579	1,468	8,653
Received from West African Colonies.	767	10,756	605	6,977
Despatched to West African Colonies.	408	4,421	426	4,321
Inland	2,561	21,019	2,310	20,570
Totals...	5,708	£47,768	5,255	£42,590

There was a considerable increase in postal order business. Orders issued numbered 60,357, value £41,476, and Orders paid 49,367, value £35,836. The corresponding figures for 1926 were 55,539, value £38,481 and 46,190, value £33,395.

There was also a very considerable increase in parcel post business. 48,922 parcels were dealt with as against 40,686 in 1926, an increase of 8,236 or 20·2 per cent. 6,650 of the increased number of parcels were exchanged with England.

The number of heavy parcels, i.e., parcels between 11 and 22 lb., included in the above total is 5,087 (4,702 received and 385 despatched) as compared with 2,667 in 1926 (2,328 and 239, respectively).

The number of parcels dealt with under the cash-on-delivery service (instituted on 1st January, 1926) with Great Britain and Northern Ireland shows an extraordinarily large increase for the year. No such parcels were posted locally for Great Britain. The details are shown as compared with 1926 :—

	No. of Parcels received.									
	G.P.O.		*District Offices.*				*Parcels Delivered.*		*Parcels Returned.*	
Year.	*No.*	*Value.*	*No.*	*Value.*	*Total.*	*Value.*	*No.*	*Value.*	*No.*	*Value.*
		£		£		£		£		£
1926	2,850	6,797	1,944	4,443	4,794	11,240	4,135	9,550	233	685
1927	5,281	11,619	5,841	12,027	11,122	23,646	9,376	19,776	1,037	2,450

(b) Telegraphs and Telephones.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department, of which the head office is at Water Street, Freetown. There is a telegraph service from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles) with important transmitting stations at Bauya (Boia) (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles). From Bauya there is a telegraph service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles from Bauya). From Mano, on the railway (106 miles from Freetown), there is a branch line through Sengama, Luawa, and Bendu, and thence by submarine cable across to Bonthe on Sherbro Island (74½ miles). From Sengama there is a branch line via Sumbuya to Pujehun (47 miles). There is also a branch of about 3 miles from Luawa on the Mano-Bonthe line in the Southern Province to Mattru.

From Songo (mile 32) on the railway there is a telephone to Port Loko and thence to Mange and Kamabai in the Northern Province.

There is a telephone service in Freetown with 120 circuits, the main exchange being in Water Street, and there is a sub-exchange at Hill Station.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1926 and 1927 (exclusive of messages sent on railway service) was :—

	1926.	1927.
Public telegrams	52,726	47,087
Government telegrams ...	17,826	17,077

The revenue from telegrams was £4,373, as compared with £4,932 in 1926.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and are sent through the office of the Eastern Telegraph Company in Freetown.

The telephone revenue in 1927 amounted to £1,979.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) Railways.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½ miles main line, Water Street to Pendembu.
104 miles branch line, Bauya to Kamabai.
5½ miles hill station line.
1 mile branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.

Total 338

Approximately 17 miles of sidings at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1927, was £1,719,865.

The following are the comparative figures for 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*
	£	£	£
General Revenue	231,889	228,527	251,477*
Expenditure	176,482	175,392	269,022†
Receipts per train mile (in pence).	109·79	114·01‡	128·46
Working expenses per train mile (in pence).	83·56	87·50‡	90·80
Passengers carried	587,944	498,332	589,898
Tonnage carried	72,298	70,758	77,060

*** This includes for the first time £1,674 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund**

† This figure includes for the first time loan charges, pensions and gratuities and cost of services rendered by other Departments totalling altogether £80,438.

‡ Based on train mileage, earnings, and working expenses for the ten months March to December ; figures for January and February not being available owing to the strike.

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 43 locomotives, 84 coaching vehicles, and 346 goods vehicles.

The revenue, and tonnage of goods carried, constituted a record for the Railway. A strike of railway employees for six weeks in January and February of 1926 considerably affected the figures for that year.

(b) Roads.

The following mileage of first-class roads has been completed and is open for motor traffic :—

Pujehun-Kumrabai Mamila	87
Mano-Taima	15
Moyamba-Sembehun	19
Boagibu-Panguma	15
Segbwema-Gandorhun	29
Pendembu-Mafindo	24
Kamabai-Kabala	7
Koribundu-Sumbuya	21
Koribundu-Blama	2
Total	249

The following mileage of first-class roads is under construction or under survey :—

Pujehun-Kumrabai Mamila	20
Boagibu-Panguma	17½
Segbwema-Gandorhun	9
Kanre Lahun-Dodo	15
Kamabai-Kabala	50
Zimi-Sulima	35
Koribundu-Blama	28
Pujehun-Manni	12
Sumbuya-Mattru	18½
Gandorhun-Sefadu	20
Total	225

The following are being constructed as pioneer roads :—

Pujehun-Manni ;
Sumbuya-Mattru ;
Gandorhun-Sefadu ;
Kamabai-Kabala Road, remainder of.

(c) Waterways.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are only navigable for light-draught vessels.

The following improvements have been carried out :—

(*a*) The bank above the Deah Rocks at Pujehun was cut back a maximum distance of 60 feet, giving a clear view between sighting targets and a straighter course through the channel ;

(*b*) Channels were made through two or more reefs of rocks in the Taia River between Taiama and Mano.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Among these were the following :—

(*a*) Extension to Printing Office.

(*b*) Completion of two quarters for the Lands and Forests Department, Kenema.

(*c*) Type Hospital, Bo.

(*d*) New road, Campbell Street to Congo Town Cross Roads.

(*e*) Two bungalows, Hill Station.

(*f*) New quarters, Medical Officer, Bonthe.

(*g*) New quarters for District Commissioner, Kabala.

(*h*) New office for District Commissioner, Kabala.

(*i*) New Political and Legal Offices, Moyamba.

(*j*) New Customs Offices, Bonthe.

(*k*) Continuation of new Government Offices, George Street.

(*l*) Continuation of out-patient administrative and store blocks, Connaught Hospital.

(*m*) Continuation of Agricultural College, Njala.

(*n*) Continuation of Governor's Lodge.

XIII.—FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL.

The Temporary Municipal Board which replaced the late City Council on 28th December, 1926, continued in office throughout the year 1927.

The re-assessment of the City showed an increase of the rateable value of the hereditaments (excluding Government-owned property) from £86,688 to £110,048.

The Fire Brigade has been placed under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and brought to a very creditable state of efficiency. It is now equipped with a motor fire engine and the most up-to-date fire-fighting appliances.

The site for a new cemetery has been selected at King Tom after a public referendum. The acquisition of the land is proceeding.

The markets have been cleansed and are undergoing necessary repairs. The new slaughter house was opened for public use on the 1st January, 1928.

Fire precautionary measures have been effected in the Wilberforce Hall. It is now provided with two emergency exits and internal fire hydrants.

Practically all the rates for the financial year 1926-27 were collected, in addition to £2,400 of arrears of rates.

The late City Council was insolvent at the end of the previous financial year, whereas the Board on the 31st October, 1927, held a credit balance of £2,600. This and the enhanced rateable value of the City enables the Board to reduce the City and Water rates for the year 1927-28 from 13½ per cent. to 11 per cent.

The Board will continue in office until the 30th April, 1928, and will be superseded by the newly-constituted Council on 1st May, 1928.

XIV.—POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Colony.

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in the vicinity, Sherbro and York Island and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island, and Turner's Peninsula, although parts of the Colony, are administered as Protectorate (except an area of 10 square miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board) and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (*a*) Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (*b*) the Headquarters Judicial District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Island, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters District (as well as the District Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (i.e., of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows :—

	Area. *Sq. miles.*	*Population.*
Police (including Freetown) ...	50	56,980
Headquarters	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281

(b) Protectorate.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Central Province is sub-divided into four districts, and the Northern and

Southern Provinces into five each, all under District Commissioners. The area and population of each Province are as follows :—

	Area. Sq. miles.	*Approximate Native Population.*
Northern	13,850	572,600
Central	7,570	594,150
Southern	5,560	300,650
Totals	26,980	1,467,400

The total European political staff is 31, consisting of four Provincial Commissioners, 14 District Commissioners, and 13 Assistant District Commissioners. Each Commissioner has at his disposal a clerk or clerks, as the case may be, and a detachment of Court Messengers. The Court Messenger Force, a disciplinary body of Protectorate natives, mostly ex-soldiers, performs in the Protectorate such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties necessitated by the exigencies of Protectorate administration.

XV.—ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms part of the Royal West African Frontier Force, of which His Majesty the King is Colonel-in-Chief.

The Battalion comes, in time of peace, under the orders of the Colonial Government, but whilst operating in Sierra Leone in time of war forms part of the Imperial Military Garrison, under the orders of the Officer Commanding the Troops, Freetown. The Battalion is inspected annually by the Inspector-General, Royal West African Frontier Force, whose Headquarters are at the Colonial Office. This inspection is carried out with the object of ascertaining that there is uniformity of training in the Frontier Force, based as far as practicable on the most modern methods adopted by the Imperial Army.

ESTABLISHMENT.

The establishment of the Battalion was :—

Officers :—

1 Major Commanding ;
3 Captains ;
10 Subalterns (including an Adjutant and a Signalling Officer).

Total 14

British Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers :—

1 Regimental Sergeant-Major ;
1 Armourer Quartermaster-Sergeant ;
2 Company Sergeant-Majors ;
1 Orderly-Room Sergeant ;
2 Company Quartermaster-Sergeants ;
1 Signal Sergeant ;
4 Sergeants.

Total 12

Rank and File :—

337 Native Rank and File ;
26 Lewis Gun Carriers.

Total 363

The Reserve consisted of 100 rank and file. These men have hitherto been specially selected for their military capabilities, none of whom have served more than 12 years with the Colours.

LOCATION.

The Headquarters of the Battalion and one Company are stationed at Daru in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, on the main line of the railway, 213 miles from Freetown. The remaining Company is stationed at Makeni, in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, on the branch line of the railway, and 148 miles from Freetown.

INSTRUCTION OF SOLDIERS IN AGRICULTURE.

A system of practical instruction in farming and the rotation of crops has been inaugurated with the assistance of the Agricultural Department. This instruction should prove of great benefit to Sierra Leone in future years in ensuring first of all that all discharged soldiers have a thorough knowledge of the cultivation of crops such as cocoa, coffee, castor oil beans, oil palms, etc., for which there are good markets, and by the sale of which the revenue of the country should benefit in future years. The second, and possibly the greater advantage, is that in making use of the swamp area around Daru for swamp rice cultivation it is hoped from time to time to grow sufficient rice to provide for the annual consumption of the Battalion and thus make this unit a self-supporting one. The swamp rice cultivation has actually commenced.

XVI.—SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

(a) Topographical Branch.

Twelve points were fixed by the framework camp by astronomical and wireless methods. The comparatively slight progress made is attributable to the fact that the officer in charge of this camp became ill at the beginning of April and was subsequently invalided to the United Kingdom. He was not replaced during 1927. The camp was therefore operative for three months only.

273 miles of topographical levels were completed with satisfactory results, no serious misclosures occurring. This work was carried out almost exclusively by pupil surveyors in their second year of training.

8,360 miles of compass traverse, together with aneroid levels, were run. This mileage represents the detail survey of some 6,000 square miles of country, or 20 field sheets.

During the year the six field sheets surveyed in detail during the first season were published at Accra. Copies were issued to all Heads of Departments, Political Officers, etc., and are on sale to the public. A further fifteen sheets were despatched to Accra for reproduction.

(b) Cadastral Branch.

The Survey of Freetown was completed during March. Fourteen out of the twenty-three sheets being published are now on sale.

Considerable progress was made in the survey of the Wilberforce, Murray Town, and Aberdeen areas. Personnel had, however, to be withdrawn from this work for a period of some three months during the rains for the purpose of undertaking the more urgently required survey of a portion of the platinum minefields area. Some ten square miles of this latter area were fully surveyed.

(c) Lands Branch.

The Lands Officer was called upon to deputise for the Officer-in-charge, Cadastral Branch, during the earlier part of the year when the latter was on leave. In addition, he was employed for the greater part of the year as Valuing Assessor, under the Municipal Board, for the City of Freetown. As much headway as was anticipated in the compilation of Records of Land transactions was not therefore made. The progress made in the general work of the branch calls for no special comment.

(d) Survey School.

Ten additional pupils were admitted to the school during February, and were in residence there until December, when they joined Topo field camps in the Protectorate for the first time. Progress was satisfactory.

The fourteen second-year pupils were in the field for the first six months of the year. Their progress has, on the whole, been quite satisfactory, two or three of them showing considerable promise. A noticeable feature was the readiness with which they took to camp life.

XVII.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Following on a preliminary investigation in 1926 of certain areas in the Colony and Protectorate the Geological Department was established in 1927, and operations commenced at the end of March.

Towards the end of 1926 a rough survey was made of the haematite deposits which were found at Marampa earlier in the year. Analyses of the bulk of samples collected have since come to hand and it is estimated that there is available to a depth of only 20 feet on the tops of Massaboitanki hill and Bafila hill and to the same depth in a lode at the foot of Massaboitanki hill and to a depth of 5 feet in another deposit, at least 6½ million tons of ore averaging over 61 per cent. of iron, 0·030-0·035 per cent. phosphorus and 0·10 per cent. sulphur. This estimate does not take into account a very large quantity—probably millions of tons—of high-grade " Float " ore.

Where exposed the ore bodies are nearly vertical and it is certain that they extend to much greater depths than 20 feet and, indeed, one lode has been traced from the crest to the foot of Massaboitanki hill—a vertical distance of over 500 feet. Carbonates have not been recognised in the deposits or in the wall-rocks and sulphides are very rare, and there is no reason to believe that the haematite will change into carbonate or sulphide ore in depth.

If the deposits extend to a depth of 100 feet from the surface on the tops of Massaboitanki and Bafila hills, which are respectively about 500 feet and 200 feet above the surrounding country, it is estimated that the total ore reserves would exceed 15,000,000 tons, and on the assumption that the deposits on the above-mentioned hills persist down to the level of the surrounding country the total ore reserves may exceed 50,000,000 tons.

In 1926 platinum was found in stream and beach gravels in the Colony and as a result a more detailed examination of the Colony was made during the months of April, May and part of June, 1927, and very promising deposits of alluvial platinum were discovered in the York District. A nugget of native platinum weighing 4¾ dwt., was found in the gravels of one of the streams. An analysis made by the Imperial Institute of the alluvial platinum shows that it is of good quality.

The platinum deposits are associated with a variety of interesting rocks including norite, pyroxenite, anorthosite, periodotite, beerbachite, dolerite and granite. These rocks occur in the form of a basin-shaped sheet (lopolith) the central and western portion of which is cut off on the seaward side.

Occurrences of ilmenite and titaniferous magnetite, some of which may be of economic importance, were also found at several places in the Colony.

A reconnaissance was made of parts of the Ronieta, Port Loko, Kambia and Karene districts and isolated deposits of haematite were found in several places in a belt of rocks averaging between 10 and 15 miles wide which trends in a north-north-western direction and extends at least from the Masimera to Susu Limba chiefdoms. Some of the ore in these deposits is of very good quality, but as far as is known at present the deposits are not comparable in size with the deposits at Marampa.

A few occurrences of rutils and corundum which are worthy of further investigation were also located.

Microscopical and chemical examinations of certain specimens collected during the year were made and a number of specimens were assaved.

In conclusion, the work of the Department during the year has demonstrated that the mineral possibilities of Sierra Leone are by no means inconsiderable and, furthermore, that Sierra Leone possesses very great potential resources of water power which will play a considerable part in the development of the country in the future.

The Department is indebted to the Director of the Gold Coast Geological Survey for analyses of certain specimens and for office accommodation in London, and to the Imperial Institute for analyses of samples submitted to them.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

1. Sierra Leone, which has been known to historians for many centuries, first became a British Colony in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The Colony was established in order to make suitable provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. The original grant was made by the local chief, King Tom, and this grant was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembanna.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs, and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate ; subsequently the number of settlers was further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 King Farina and King Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies, and in the following year the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed.

It was not many years before the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Loko, and Kaffu Bullom—were ceded to the Crown, but these treaties were not in all cases ratified by the Crown. Thereafter the Government of the Colony began to exercise influence in the Protectorate to an increasing extent by the settlement of tribal wars.

From 1866 to 1874 Sierra Leone was officially the senior West African Colony and the headquarters of the "West African Settlements." The Governor-in-Chief resided at Freetown and administered not only the Colony of Sierra Leone but also those of the Gold Coast, Lagos, and the Gambia.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreement between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate; this broke out when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the house tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

2. The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of North latitude and 10° 40′, and 13° 21′, of West longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper, as at present constituted, comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula, and a number of small islands of which York Island, adjacent to Sherbro, is the most important as it is a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords good anchorage close to the shore for the largest ships.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past fifteen years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past ten years the streets have greatly improved. At the present time about 600 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown according to the 1921 Census was approximately 45,000.

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The chief town is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries, but owing to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length.

The nature of the country varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south gives place to the more thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57.48 persons to the square mile. The population is somewhat denser in the Central Province than in the Northern Province.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, was 1,456,148. The following tribes inhabit the three Provinces :—

Northern Province ...	Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos, Linbas, Lokkos, and Temnes, with some Mandingoes, Fulahs, and Kissis.
Central Province ...	Konnos, Kissis, and Mendes, with some Bandis and Golas.
Southern Province ...	Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros, and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the most numerous of the Protectorate tribes, and their languages are the principal ones spoken.

Currency, etc.

3. Imperial currency, monetary units, and weights and measures are in use in the Colony and Protectorate. In addition to Imperial currency, West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the values £1 and 10s.

A new issue of 20s. and 10s. currency notes was placed in circulation as from 1st July. The new notes differ only slightly in design from the old issue and have the same legal tender value as the old notes, which still remain in circulation.

A sum of £23,840 was received from the West African Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income of investments during the year under review.

I.—GENERAL.

The Colony continued to enjoy a fair measure of prosperity during the year, which was marked by an increase in revenue of £52,038 over the previous year. The total amount of imports was £2,054,507 and the total of exports £1,829,093. Imports increased by £57,517 and exports by £61,834 as compared with 1927.

2. The general health of the Colony was satisfactory and no epidemics were prevalent. A considerable amount of infant welfare work is being undertaken in order to reduce infantile mortality, which in Freetown is 364 per 1,000 births.

3. The new Government offices were completed in 1928, and compare favourably with any other building in West Africa.

4. A feature of 1928 was the discovery of gold in the Protectorate, following the earlier discovery of platinum, by Major N. R. Junner, M.C., Director of Geological Survey. In consequence of this dis-

covery a number of European prospectors, financed by companies of good standing, visited Sierra Leone ; and there is reason to hope for mining developments which will add materially to the prosperity of the Colony. See also the remarks under " Mines " in Section III.

5. As regards the Protectorate, an even more important event was the abolition of the last trace of slavery. This was effected by an Ordinance which was passed in September, 1927, and came into force on the 1st January, 1928. An Ordinance had been passed in 1926 to abolish by degrees a class of persons commonly called " domestic slaves " who were in fact well-treated by their masters. In 1927, however, the Full Court delivered a judgment which held that the status of slavery was recognised by law, to the extent of allowing a master to use force. It was decided therefore to enact a law clearly abolishing the status of slavery forthwith, and this was done by the new Ordinance of 1927. In practice most of the so-called " domestic slaves " have elected to stay with their masters, and the change has caused no social or economic unrest.

II.—FINANCE.

The financial year is from 1st January to 31st December. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

	Revenue. £	*Expenditure.* £
1924	868,319	777,790
1925	945,581	843,320
1926	855,440	957,155
1927	719,637*	754,610*
1928	826,319†	815,374

* The figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 include gross totals of Railway revenue and expenditure. From the year 1927 only the net result of the working of the Railway is included in the general accounts.

† Inclusive of a re-imbursement of £54,644, being first instalment of a domestic loan in respect of works paid for out of " Surplus Balances," Deducting this sum from nominal revenue, the actual revenue would be £771,675.

2. The following amendments were made to the Customs Tariff and gazetted on 24th November and 1st December by Orders in Council Nos. 22 and 23 respectively, namely :—

(*a*) Decrease in the duty on oil fuel from 9d. to 4d. per imperial gallon.

(*b*) Inclusion in the table of exemptions from duty of wheaten flour and milk, fresh or preserved.

3. The year's working may be summarised as follows :—

		£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1928 ...		283,556
Revenue	£826,319	
Expenditure	£815,374	
		10,945
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1928 ...		294,501

4. Of the total revenue in 1928, the sum of £558,465 was derived from Customs duties, £94,941 from indirect taxation, and £118,269 from other sources of revenue.

5. The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was £1,729,848, against which the accumulations to the Sinking Funds, for its amortisation, amounted at that date to £425,178.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The several Divisions of the Lands and Forests Department have continued the development of the schemes inaugurated in previous years.

The Division of Agriculture has carried on the various lines of research started at the Experimental Farm at N'jala. Oil-palm work continues to form an important part of these investigations and the records of the yields of individual palms from plantations which have now been yielding for some three or four years show that we possess some very high quality palms which could be used as parent stock in future breeding experiments.

An Experimental Fruit Farm has been started at Newton, the chief function of which will be the growing of citrus fruits (grape fruit and lemons) and bananas. An area has been demarcated and partially cleared, and some 15 acres of bananas have been planted.

In the Southern Province the planting of cocoa (28,000 seedlings) and coconuts (19,000 seedlings) has continued, and there is reason to hope that in the future a considerable amount of coffee may be grown in this Province. In the Central Province there is a marked increase in the use of swamps for rice-growing. Cocoa is also making considerable progress, and over 25,000 seedlings were planted out during the year. Eighty-four tons of cocoa, to the value of £3,176, were exported in 1928, as against 41 tons, value £1,340, in 1926, and 77 tons, value £2,836, in 1927.

In the Northern Province a new industry has been started by this Department, namely, the production of raffia fibre. Already some 25 tons of this fibre have been produced.

Efforts are also being made to introduce the use of ploughs in this Province.

Generally, the whole of 1928 may be said to be one of steady progress ; there is a marked increase in interest on the part of native farmers with regard to the production of export crops, and the demands for seeds and seedlings are continually increasing.

The Division of Forests has continued its reservation work, and some 33 square miles of the proposed Gory Hills Reserve have been demarcated.

The Division of Research has carried on its programme. The chemical section devoted most of its time to the important problem of lateritic soils, and has collected and examined soils from other West African Colonies for comparison with those of Sierra Leone. In addition to his work in connection with diseases of oil palms, citrus, cocoa, cassava, and groundnuts, the Mycologist has carried out valuable investigations into the yields of fruit from the different varieties of oil palms at N'jala. The Entomologist has been chiefly concerned with devising control measures for locusts, termites, and kola pests, and some of the treatments tried show great promise of success.

The Division of Produce and Plant Inspection has continued the work of inspecting the various products exported, with the result that the quality of the produce exported continues to improve.

MINES.

At the beginning of 1928 the Geological Department received numerous enquiries from mining companies and applications for prospecting rights, exclusive prospecting licences, and mining rights. As a result it was found necessary to establish a Mines Office as a branch of the Department.

Active development was carried out on the concession granted to a public company over the Marampa haematite deposits. A survey party was engaged in an investigation of a route for a proposed railway from the deposits to the Sierra Leone River.

After the General Minerals Rules 1928 were issued, blocks of ground in the platinum layout were offered for tender and tenders covering about 20 square miles were received. In the gold area layout, 15 exclusive prospecting licence applications were made, covering an area of 29.5 square miles. Thirty-one prospecting rights were issued during the year.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1928 was £2,054,507, as compared with £2,112,024 in 1927.

The following tables show the value of imports for the years 1913, 1927, and 1928 :—

	1913 £	*1927* £	*1928* £
Commercial imports	1,291,982	1,588,615	1,625,886
Government imports	146,053	292,209	158,903
Specie	312,268	231,200	269,718
Totals	£1,750,303	2,112,024	2,054,507

	1913 £	*1927* £	*1928* £
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	354,488	445,949	433,277
Raw materials, and articles mainly unmanufactured.	103,680	255,793	140,231
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	1,177,052	1,207,232
Miscellaneous	418	1,910	3,756
Specie	312,268	231,320	270,011
Totals	£1,750,303	2,112,024	2,054,507

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1924	36,786
1927	45,141
1928	44,967

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 23,884 tons, as compared with 20,082 tons in 1927.

Imports of coal for Government consumption amounted to 5,049 tons.

The following table shows the imports for home consumption of cotton piece-goods during recent years :—

Year.	*Quantity, Sq. Yards.*	*Value C.I.F.* £	*Duty obtained.* £	*Rate of duty per cent.*
1924 ...	7,239,117	308,372	70,050	*25
1925 ...	10,196,326	430,987	80,401	20
1926 ...	6,142,212	247,604	45,771	20
1927 ...	9,376,122	317,934	58,265	20
1928 ...	8,496,607	309,701	57,416	20

* Until 27th November, 1924, when it was reduced to 20 per cent.

Other Cotton goods :—

Year.	*Value. C.I.F.* £	*Duty. obtained.* £	*Rate of duty per cent.*
1924	95,607	21,290	*25
1925	114,350	21,675	20
1926	95,519	17,155	20
1927	127,114	22,851	20
1928	138,583	25,167	20

* Duty reduced to 20 per cent. on 27th November, 1924.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to £1,829,093, as against £1,767,259 in 1927 and £1,731,252 in 1913. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting ship ; such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913 £	*1927* £	*1928* £
Produce and manufactures of the Colony ...	1,376,603	1,527,077	1,609,614
Coal	—	36,831	40,849
Other British and foreign manufactures	113,685	153,151	121,810
Specie	240,964	50,200	56,820
Totals	£1,731,252	£1,767,259	£1,829,093

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the last three years :—

	1926	*1927*	*1928*
Benniseed (tons)	19	141	116
Cocoa, raw (tons)	41	77	84
Ginger (cwt.)	55,265	27,354	20,431
Gum copal (tons)	—	—	42
Hides (cwt.)	337	141	449
Kola nuts (tons)	3,015	4,461	3,299
Palm Kernels (tons)	65,000	65,436	67,105
Palm Oil (tons)	2,865	3,609	2,525
Pepper (tons)	20	32	107
Piassava (tons)	2,083	2,418	3,189
Rice (bushels)	2,051	10,525	9,949

The following table exhibits the trend of commerce with the Colony :—

Year.	*Total imports less Specie.*	*Re-exports less Specie.*	*Net imports.*	*Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.*	*Excess of net imports over domestic exports.*	*Excess of domestic exports over net imports.*
1924 ...	1,635,957	160,382	1,475,575	1,510,353	—	34,778
1925 ...	1,941,314	160,256	1,781,058	1,627,916	153,142	—
1926 ...	1,626,041	151,121	1,474,920	1,562,525	—	87,605
1927 ...	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—
1928 ...	1,784,789	162,659	1,622,130	1,609,614	12,516	—

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 7,390,560 lb. or 3,299 tons, valued at £281,997, as compared with 9,993,030 lb. or 4,461 tons, valued at £268,915, in 1927.

Nigeria absorbed 51 per cent., Gambia 25.9 per cent., and French Senegal 21.3 per cent.

The following table shows the exports of kolas to the three principal kola-consuming countries during the last five years :—

	1924	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*	*1928*
Nigeria (lb.)	1,767,200	2,172,633	2,443,551	4,430,682	3,768,689
Gambia (lb.)	1,785,875	1,371,418	2,058,588	2,602,861	1,917,718
Senegal (lb.)	1,893,604	1,764,270	2,071,130	2,758,271	1,580,152

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 67,105 tons, as compared with 65,436 in 1927 —an increase of 1,669 tons. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,150,649 as against £1,077,450 in the preceding year, showing an increase of £73,199.

There was a slight rise in price in the European market, which averaged £20 13s. 0d. per ton as compared with £19 17s. 0d. per ton in 1927. The United Kingdom purchased only 25,345 tons or 37.77 per cent. of the total quantity shipped, as against 27,664 tons or 42.3 per cent. in 1927. There was a large demand for kernels on the Continent and Germany appropriated 40,377 tons or 60.2 per cent., as compared with 37,314 tons or 57 per cent. in 1927.

The following table shows the exports of palm kernels since 1913:—

	Tons.
1913	49,201
1914	35,915
1915	39,624
1916	45,316
1917	58,020
1918	40,816
1919	50,622
1920	50,425
1921	40,409
1922	49,029
1923	59,545
1924	61,117
1925	63,231
1926	65,000
1927	65,436
1928	67,105

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 2,525 tons, valued at £66,445, as compared with 3,609 tons, valued at £98,179, in 1927—a decrease of 1,084 tons.

Ginger.—Shipments dropped from 27,354 cwt., valued at £25,981, in 1927 to 20,431 cwt., valued at £30,582, in 1928. 6,081 cwt., valued at £10,715, were shipped to the United Kingdom, 12,845 cwt., valued at £17,942, to the United States of America, 607 cwt., valued at £841, to Germany, 611 cwt., valued at £749, to Canada; and the remainder to France, Gambia, Senegal, and Liberia.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade, £1,239,807 or 60.35 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 61.38 per cent. in 1927, £232,694 or 11.32 per cent. from the United States of America, Germany £156,357 or 7.6 per cent., France £105,996 or 5.15 per cent., and French West African Possessions £120,079 or 5.84 per cent.

Of the gross export trade of £1,829,093, £539,010 or 29.45 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, £728,109 or 39.80 per cent. to Germany, £272,247 or 14.88 per cent. to British West African Possessions, and £29,876 or 1.63 per cent. to the United States of America.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

SHIPPING.

There was an increase of 43 vessels and of 127,297 tons in the number and tonnage of steam vessels entering the Colony during the year. Out of a total of 2,392,603 tons, 62.15 per cent. sailed under the British flag. Dutch vessels were largely responsible for the increase in shipping, 56,908 more tons being entered from Holland, which now provides 11.96 per cent. of the total. Germany is third with 9.13 per cent., and the United States of America fourth with 7.79 per cent.

Nationality.	*Steam Vessels Entered.*				*Increase.*		*Decrease.*		*Percentage proportion of total tonnage entered.*	
	1927		1928							
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*1927*	*1928*
American	44	148,285	56	186,483	12	38,198	—	—	5·82	7·79
British	474	1,495,429	469	1,486,944	—	—	5	8,485	67·84	62·15
Danish	2	3,196	6	7,520	4	4,324	—	—	·07	0·32
Dutch	98	229,194	125	286,102	27	56,908	—	—	10·02	11·96
French	53	129,975	38	105,390	—	—	15	24,585	5·84	4·40
German	83	166,067	101	218,474	18	52,407	—	—	6·73	9·13
Italian	28	72,388	30	81,614	2	9,226	—	—	3·32	3·41
Norwegian ...	11	20,772	4	6,938	—	—	7	13,834	·36	0·29
Spanish	—	—	1	1,197	1	1,197	—	—	—	0·05
Belgian	—	—	2	5,237	2	5,237	—	—	—	0·22
Swedish	—	—	4	6,704	4	6,704	—	—	—	0·28
Total	793	2,265,306	836	2,392,603	43	127,297	—	—	100·00	100·00

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered from and cleared to foreign ports in the years 1927 and 1928 :—

Ports.	*Vessels Entered.*				*Increase.*		*Decrease.*	
	1927.		1928.					
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Freetown ...	801	2,228,806	827	2,338,541	26	109,735	—	—
Sherbro	6	17,589	13	31,864	7	14,275	—	—
Mano Salija ...	18	17,796	15	14,004	—	—	3	3,792
Sulima	1	1,927	5	8,836	4	6,909	—	—
Total ...	826	2,266,118	860	2,393,245	34	127,127	—	—
	Vessels Cleared.							
Freetown ...	776	2,182,530	811	2,311,768	35	129,238	—	—
Sherbro	24	55,267	20	44,262	—	—	4	11,005
Mano Salija ...	21	22,247	19	21,418	—	—	2	829
Sulima	2	2,876	2	4,138	—	1,262	—	—
Total ...	823	2,262,920	852	2,381,586	29	118,666	—	—

RAILWAYS.

The total length of the line opened remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 338 miles.

The capital expenditure of the railway to the 31st December, 1928, was £1,730,856.

The total revenue of the railway was £258,159, which constitutes the highest figure yet recorded and an increase of £6,682 on the figure for the previous year.

The revenue includes £1,830 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, etc., and £4,500 subsidy paid to revenue by the Government for the loss on the working of the mountain railway.

The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £290,086, an increase of £21,064. This increase was mainly due to the heavy programme of extraordinary works of a revenue character, renewals, etc. The expenditure includes £85,358 for loan charges, pensions, and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses connected with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

The receipts per train mile were 11s. 3.44d. and working expenses per train mile 9s. 2.55d. The working expenses include for the first time pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

Passenger journeys in the year were 604,737, an increase of 14,839 on the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 78,385 tons against 77,060 in 1927.

	1913		*1925*		* *1927*		*1928*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Receipts per train mile	9	6·11	9	1·79	10	8·46	11	3·44
Working expenses per train mile ...	5	1·09	6	11·56	7	6·80	9	2·55
Passengers carried	438,388		587,944		589,898		604,737	
Tonnage carried	62,084		72,298		77,060		78,385	

* Figures for 1926 are not given as they were affected by the strike which was in progress for six weeks during that year.

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotives, 85 coaching vehicles, and 348 goods vehicles.

ROADS.

The following mileage of first-class roads has been completed and is open for motor traffic :—

Pujehun-Kumrabai-Mamila	107
Mano-Taiama	15
Moyamba-Sembehun	19
Boadgibu-Panguma	62
Segbwema-Gandorhun	36
Pendembu-Mafindo	24
Kamabai-Kabala	22
Koribundo-Sumbuya	21
Koribundu-Blama	28
Zimi-Sulima	20
Pujehun-Mani	10
Kailahun-Dodo	10
	374

The following mileage of first-class roads is under construction or under survey :—

Kailahun-Dodo	5
Kamabai-Kabala	35
Zimi-Sulima	12
Sumbuya-Mattru	16¾
Gandorhun-Sefadu	20
Yoni-Potoro	20½
Port Loko-Batkanu	36
Makeni-Sella Limba	40
	185¼

The following are being constructed as pioneer roads :—

Pujehun-Mani ;
Sumbuya-Mattru ;
Gandorhun-Sefadu ;
Kamabai-Kabala.

WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light-draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways. An important waterway has been opened up between Bonthe and Yoni via Mani.

POSTAL.

The results for the year show a further general expansion in postal business.

The number of post offices and agencies open at the end of the year was 73 (22 and 71, respectively) ; a fresh agency having been opened at Rokel, and that at Bullom having been re-opened. Money-order business was transacted at 24 offices and postal-order business at 55.

Revenue and expenditure for each of the years 1926–1928 are shown below :—

Revenue.

	1926	*1927*	*1928*
	£	£	£
Postal Revenue	13,215	16,462	16,865
Customs Duties collected on parcels	7,710	9,887	10,292
Sale of Stamps for Inland Revenue purposes ...	3,283	3,928	3,943
Total collections	24,208	30,277	31,100
Expenditure.	17,330	18,115	19,318

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year is estimated at 2,012,559, as against 1,882,290 in 1927, an increase of 130,269. The total is made up as follows :—

	Letters.	*Post-cards.*	*Other Articles.*	*Totals.*
Despatched to England	171,311	8,088	15,492	194,891
Received from England	219,621	4,605	297,488	521,714
Despatched to inter-colonial ports ...	114,859	314	21,905	137,078
Received from inter-colonial ports ...	118,097	650	10,127	128,874
Inland	901,315	3,393	125,294	1,030,002
	1,525,203	17,050	470,306	2,012,559

113,638 registered articles are included in the above figures (106,374 in 1927).

The money-order transactions numbered 6,306 and amounted to £53,086. The details as compared with 1927 are shown below :—

	1928		*1927*	
	Number.	*Amount.* £	*Number.*	*Amount.* £
Received from England	521	2,417	495	2,993
Despatched to England	1,534	9,430	1,477	8,579
Received from West African Colonies.	835	10,901	767	10,756
Despatched to West African Colonies.	413	3,885	408	4,421
Inland	3,003	26,453	2,561	21,019
Total	6,306	53,086	5,708	47,768

Postal orders issued numbered 61,305, value £42,407, and orders paid 48,059, value £34,407. The corresponding figures for 1927 were 60,357, value £41,476, and 49,367, value £35,836.

There was a fair increase in parcel-post business; 51,563 parcels being dealt with, as against 48,922 in the previous year. Parcels exchanged with England increased by 3,118 and those from Nigeria decreased by 853.

The cash-on-delivery service (instituted on 1st January, 1926) with Great Britain and Northern Ireland continues to show considerable progress. No such parcels were posted locally for Great Britain.

Details as to the parcels dealt with since the commencement of the service are shown below:—

Year.	*No. of Parcels received.*				*Total.*	*Value.*	*Parcels Delivered.*		*Parcels Returned.*	
	G.P.O.		*District Offices.*							
	No.	*Value.*	*No.*	*Value.*			*No.*	*Value.*	*No.*	*Value.*
		£		£		£		£		£
1926 ...	2,850	6,797	1,944	4,443	4,794	11,240	4,135	9,550	233	685
1927 ...	5,281	11,619	5,841	12,027	11,122	23,646	9,376	19,776	1,037	2,450
1928 ...	6,749	14,608	7,545	14,705	14,294	29,313	12,060	24,575	1,894	4,179

CABLES AND WIRELESS.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless telegraph station at Freetown. There is also a cable from the mainland to Sherbro Island and Bonthe.

TELEGRAPHS.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the Railway Department. There is a telegraph service to Pendembu, the eastern terminus of the Railway (227½ miles from Freetown), with transmitting stations at Boia and Bo. There are also various telegraph services in the Protectorate.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone service is maintained by the Railway Department. There are no privately-owned telephone exchanges.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

The Courts of the Colony consist of the Courts of the Tribal Rulers, the Police Court of Freetown, and the Freetown Court of Requests, the Courts of the District Commissioners of the Bonthe and the Headquarters Judicial Districts, and the Courts of Requests of those districts, the Coroners' Courts, the Supreme Court in its

Summary Jurisdiction and the Supreme Court in its Ordinary Jurisdiction; the Full Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of the Protectorate consist of the Courts of the Native Chiefs, the Courts of the District Commissioners, the Combined Courts and the Circuit Court of the Protectorate.

POLICE.

The health of the Force was normal, and there was no epidemic.

The standard of discipline improved during the year. Two constables were sentenced to imprisonment and dismissed from the Force and in addition one non-commissioned officer and three constables were dismissed. There were only three cases of drunkenness, two of these being by men off duty.

There was a diminution in crime.

The following table shows the number of cases reported, arrests made, number of convictions and the percentage of convictions to arrests for the last three years.

Year.	*Cases Reported.*	*Arrests made.*	*Convictions.*	*Percentage.*
1926 ...	1,887	2,346	1,657	70.6
1927 ...	2,209	2,259	1,815	80.3
1928 ...	1,782	1,935	1,498	77.4

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the past two years:—

	1927.	*1928.*
Murder	—	1
Manslaughter	3	3
Housebreaking	2	—
Burglary	2	7
Shopbreaking	4	—
Larceny	331	328
Receiving	25	21

PRISONS.

The number of persons committed to the Freetown Prison during the two years 1927 and 1928 was as follows:—

	1927.	*1928.*
Males	850	723
Females	14	10
Juveniles	3	22

The daily average number in custody during the year 1928 was:—

Males	256
Females	2

The health of the prisoners was good. There were no epidemics.

The number of persons committed to the Protectorate prisons during 1928 was 876, as against 696 in 1927. The daily average in custody was 147 as compared with 138 in 1927.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Among these were the following :—

(*a*) New Government Offices.
(*b*) Governor's Lodge, Hill Station.
(*c*) Connaught Hospital—New Ward Block.
(*d*) Agricultural College, N'jala.
(*e*) New Hospital, Makeni.

In the course of the year a valuable report on the administration of the Public Works Department was made by Mr. E. H. D. Nicolls, C.M.G., O.B.E., who was selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the purpose. All the recommendations made by Mr. Nicolls were carefully considered by Government and as many as possible were put into effect before the end of the year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

European Hospital, Hill Station.—The increase in the number of cases treated is partly due to the transfer of the Royal West African Frontier Force from the Protectorate to Freetown and to the medical charge of the Imperial troops being assumed by Government.

	Total cases.	*Government officials.*
1925	111	37
1926	125	45
1927	136	51
1928	163	70

Connaught Hospital, Freetown.—The new ward-block, 32 beds, and children's ward, 8 beds, have been erected during the year and will be opened in the New Year.

There has been a reduction in the number of patients admitted during the year, but the average stay has been longer, and the surgical wards have been constantly crowded.

	Admissions.	*Maternity Section.*
1925	1,860	263
1926	1,867	251
1927	2,046	301
1928	1,945	311

The out-patient department has moved into the new building and working facilities have been vastly improved. There has been a falling off in new cases, the numbers dealt with being 13,864 new cases and 47,040 subsequent attendances, compared with 14,780 and 49,560 respectively in 1927.

Lunatic Asylum, Kissy.—There has been a steady increase in the numbers of patients, and extension is now necessary. There were 65 admissions during the year, and 16 deaths—the total number treated was 160, of whom 106 remained at the end of the year.

Kissy Infirmaries.—These institutions, which are constantly full, house destitute people who are infirm or have chronic and incurable diseases; 257 cases were treated during the year.

The Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe.—496 cases were admitted during the year. The out-patient department dealt with 3,933 new cases, and the subsequent attendances numbered 14,155.

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Central Province.—This is the first permanent hospital to be built in the Protectorate, and is one of a projected series. The second is now in course of erection at Makeni in the Northern Province.

The total number of in-patients treated was 102, and in the out-patients department there were 2,817 new cases, and the total attendance numbered 9,208.

POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Population, 1921 *Census.*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.	*Infantile Mortality per* 1,000 *births.*
Freetown	44,142	23.5	31.5	364
Colony (other than Freetown).	41,021	23.2	25.4	264

Owing to the non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate (which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births) appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and with a view to reducing it, infant welfare work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28.5 per cent. and 24.3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

Owing to the fact that the last Census was taken in 1921, there is probably a considerable error in the population figure. There is no means of correcting this since methods of estimation employed elsewhere are inapplicable here owing to movement of population.

SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Owing to the existence of yellow fever or plague in several West African colonies, both to the north and to the south of Sierra Leone, port health work continued to be heavy. Practically all ships arriving in Freetown harbour were visited by the Medical Officer of Health. Passengers arriving from infected ports were kept under strict surveillance and, where necessary, their baggage was disinfected.

Both Colony and Protectorate remained free from epidemic disease.

Pneumonia and bronchitis have an appreciable effect on the death-rate, especially in the early months of the year when the dry north-east wind (Harmattan) prevails.

The Superintendent of the Freetown Waterworks reports that, except for a week at the end of April, there was no shortage of water during the year. The total consumption for all purposes was 166,664,000 gallons, including 4,539,000 gallons supplied to shipping.

Record of Vaccinations performed.

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Number vaccinated ...	13,669	13,389	13,953
,, successful ...	7,491	8,109	8,417
,, unsuccessful ...	3,873	2,716	2,609
,, not inspected	2,305	2,564	2,927

CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. There are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August, and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall. The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland. Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 40 years are available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands :—

AVERAGE RAINFALL, FREETOWN (TOWER HILL).

Period.	*Average Rainfall, in inches.*
1882–1891	166.07
1892–1901	165.15
1902–1911	156.90
1912–1921	122.66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204.19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102.34 inches in 1914.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east "Trades," and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and it is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in Freetown in 1928 was 148.54 inches ; this is slightly below the average for the past 40 years (152.47 inches).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 5.32 inches on the 2nd September. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 67 degrees on the 29th, 30th, and 31st January; the highest, 93 degrees, on the 17th April.

IX.—EDUCATION.

From the beginning of the present year primary education in the Colony passed under the new scheme of amalgamating mission schools, thus building up stronger centres and in a measure providing separate schools for infants and standard classes. The payment of teachers having been taken over by Government, much closer attention is being paid to qualifications, and with the additional supervision now provided the grade of work should steadily improve.

In the Protectorate, while the old system still obtains, plans are under consideration for the complete reorganization of all schools.

The following table gives the figures of all primary schools conducted or assisted by Government in both Colony and Protectorate :—

Protectorate.—

Schools.	*No.*	*Number on Roll.*	*Average Attendance.*
Church of England	12	731	493
Wesleyan Methodist	16	829	608
Roman Catholic	9	814	612
United Brethren-in-Christ	17	1,244	905
United Methodist	3	200	157
Countess of Huntingdon	1	29	26
United Brethren-in-Africa	2	77	61
American Methodist Episcopal	2	251	193
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel... ...	1	74	48
Magburaka (Private)...	1	81	51
Moyamba (Amalgamated)	1	79	45
Government	10	739	576
Colony	47	7,126	4,756
	122	12,274	8,531

The figures for the Colony only are :—

(*a*) Primary Schools.

	No.	*Number on Roll.*	*Average Attendance.*
Government	1	316	261
Amalgamated Mission (Urban)	21	4,442	2,970
Amalgamated Mission (Rural)	25	2,368	1,525

(*b*) Secondary Schools.

School.	*Controlling Authority.*	*Primary Classes.*	*Preparatory and Secondary Classes.*	*Total.*
Boys.—				
Prince of Wales	Government	—	104	104
*C.M.S. Grammar School	C.E.	46	186	232
Wesleyan Boys' High School	Wesleyan	87	73	160
Albert Academy	U.B.C.	—	81	81
St. Edward's	R.C.	—	54	54
A.M.E. Seminary	A M.E.	58	28	86
Girls.—				
*Annie Walsh Memorial	C.E.	159	55	214
St. Joseph's Convent	R.C.	148	18	166
Wesleyan Girls' High	Wesleyan	22	28	50
Freetown Secondary School for Girls ...	Private	110	45	155
*Girls' Vocational	Private	42	—	42
		672	672	1,344

* Non-aided.

The Prince of Wales' School is well equipped with laboratories, and with two European science masters, now reinforced by an African, lays special stress on the teaching of science. A scheme is on foot for the inclusion of technical instruction.

TRADE SCHOOLS.

In the Colony there are three schools for boys undertaking trade preparation work :—

(i) Albert Academy, taking carpentry and printing.
(ii) Church of England Technical School, taking carpentry and theoretical building construction, with 30 pupils.
(iii) Sir Alfred Jones's Trade School, taking carpentry, with 22 pupils.

The teaching of domestic science is gradually gaining ground in the girls' schools, the Convent and A.M.E. Schools offering definite training.

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated with Durham University, prepares students for the degrees of that University. The staff consisted of a European Principal, four African Tutors, and two European ladies who gave occasional lectures. The number of students for the year was 17, of whom 9 were in residence. 4 Degrees and 2 Diplomas were conferred during the year.

In addition to the above, the College undertakes the training of male teachers for primary schools. Government meets the expense of a European and an African Tutor, and grants scholarships to students, as well as providing grants for equipment and general expenses.

The training of female teachers for primary schools is now undertaken by the Wesleyan Missionary Society at its College at Wilberforce, where Government meets the expense of three European Mistresses, students' scholarships, and otherwise assists in the cost of training.

PROTECTORATE SCHOOLS.

There are 10 schools conducted directly by Government, with a roll of 739 pupils, all of whom are boys. These schools, with the exception of Bo School, and N'jala Agricultural School, are rural schools of junior primary grade.

Bo School.—This school is intended for the education of sons and nominees of Chiefs. Nine of the present paramount chiefs are old Bo School pupils, while over 100 ex-pupils are now in Government service. The school is performing its special function with considerable success. All the students, now numbering 164, are boarders.

N'jala Agricultural School has grown in popularity, the numbers having risen to 201, while many have had to be turned away. The staff is entirely African. Discipline and progress have been well maintained under the officer in charge, Rev. A. T. Sumner, M.B.E., M.A. Owing to lack of space and other reasons, the school is closing down on its present site and transferring with all but its two junior classes to the new Central Protectorate College which is to be set up near Mongheri.

The eight other Government schools perform some useful work, but much improvement is required, both in the efficiency of the teaching and in the redirection of aims. The first stages of a child's education will in future be given in its mother tongue, and local interests and occupations will be dealt with in the curriculum.

Eleven missionary societies are conducting 72 assisted schools, with 3,643 boys and 1,237 girls on roll, and 51 unassisted schools with probably 1,000 pupils. A proposal for the reorganization of Education in the Protectorate contemplates a difference in the present form of assistance, but with the regrouping recommended it is expected that the total assistance afforded to Missions will be considerably greater than at present.

X. LANDS AND SURVEY.

LANDS.

The work of this branch calls for no special comment. Through force of circumstances, the Lands Officer was called upon to officiate in certain other capacities during the year.

SURVEY.

Topographical.—Seventeen points were fixed by the framework camp by astronomical and wireless methods. The newly-appointed framework officer did not arrive in the Colony until the 28th January. One of the best months of the year for observing was therefore lost.

235 miles of topographical levels were completed with satisfactory results, this work being carried out entirely by young African surveyors.

11,573 miles of compass traverse, together with aneroid levels, were run. This mileage represents the detail survey of some 7,500 square miles of country. Nineteen sheets were completely surveyed.

During the year, eight sheets were published at Accra, and proof copies of a further 10 sheets were prepared for final check.

The largest staff in the field at any one time consisted of 4 Europeans and 28 Africans. Of these latter, 24 have been trained entirely within the Department since its creation at the end of 1925.

The Topographical Branch sustained a serious loss through the death, from blackwater fever, of Lieutenant P. B. H. Carden, Royal Engineers, on the 4th April, 1928.

Cadastral.—The chief work of the Cadastral Branch during the year has been the layout of the platinum area in the Colony and the gold area in the Northern province of the Protectorate. The former included 24 miles and the latter 35 miles of theodolite traverse which had to be executed under the most unfavourable conditions, both as regards terrain and weather.

In the Colony, ordinary methods of chaining were frequently found to be out of the question owing to the rugged nature of the country, and it was necessary to obtain distances by subtense methods. A considerable amount of other theodolite traverse was also executed, the line along the western shore of the Peninsula being of importance.

The survey of the environs of Freetown was continued as opportunity offered but, owing to the necessity for the constant moves of surveyors from this to other areas, there was little continuity in the work.

The invaliding, during March, of the officer in charge of the Cadastral Branch, and his absence from the Colony for the remainder of the year, was a great misfortune. The African field staff never exceeded nine surveyors, of whom six were apprentices. The services of a European and two African Surveyors were loaned from the Gold Coast for a period of about six months in connection with the survey of the platinum area.

Survey School.—No new admissions were made to the Survey School. The pupils, 24 in number, spent some eight months in the field and were in residence at Kortright during the worst period of the wet season. The instructor was on leave in England until the middle of April and on his return was employed on administrative duties at Survey Headquarters pending the reopening of the School in June. Progress was satisfactory.

GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

During 1928 the Department actively continued the investigation of the geology and mineral resources of the Colony and Protectorate.

The bulk of the field work was carried out in the Northern Province but reconnaissances were also made in the Central and Southern Provinces. The mapping of the auriferous belt of rocks found by the Director in 1926 in the Koinadugu District was commenced and the belt was found to extend for a considerable distance into the Bombali District. Encouraging prospects of gold were found in several places.

A preliminary survey of the water-power resources of the Protectorate was undertaken and has demonstrated that these resources are very large and are of considerable potential importance.

The workings on the haematite deposits near Marampa were examined and reported on.

During the rainy season the Department was engaged in research work on the material collected during the previous tour. A large number of thin sections of rocks from the norite mass of the Colony and from various places in the Protectorate were examined and qualitative and quantitative determinations of several specimens were made.

Important deposits of gold, ilmenite, manganese, graphite, and corundum were discovered during the year.

XI. LABOUR.

Unskilled labour in the Colony and Protectorate is easy to obtain. The wages paid average about 1*s.* per diem.

There is in the Protectorate a system of communal labour which is performed by the natives as a form of tax payable to the chiefs. Such communal labour is called up in accordance with native custom for works of a public character, e.g., road-making, construction of native-built (mud) houses, but a system of payment for such labour is now being gradually introduced.

The demand for skilled labour is met by artisans trained by various Government departments or missions.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS.

LEGISLATION.

1. Thirty-four Ordinances were enacted during the year 1928. Of these, 30 either amended or repealed existing measures, 2 dealt with supply, and the 2 remaining Ordinances relate to matters which had not previously formed the subject of legislation.

The two latter Ordinances were :—

(*a*) *The Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance* (*No.* 28), which provides for the registration of designs registered in the United Kingdom under the Patents and Designs Acts, 1907 and 1919.

(*b*) *The Public Transport Services Ordinance* (*No.* 29), which empowers the Government to run public transport services for the conveyance of passengers and goods between such points as the Governor-in-Council may determine, and to restrict competition on the routes used.

The principal amending Ordinances passed were the following :—

(*a*) *The Supreme Court* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 1), which requires persons who are entitled to practise as Barristers in England, Northern Ireland, or in the Irish Free State, or as Advocates in Scotland, to have read in Chambers or to have practised in order to be qualified for admission as Barristers of the Colony.

(*b*) *The Travelling Commissioners Ordinance* (*No.* 6), which, with a view to the relief of District Commissioners, enables the Governor to appoint Travelling Commissioners for all or any of the districts of the Protectorate, and provides that a Travelling Commissioner shall in any district for which he is appointed have the same powers as the District Commissioner of that district.

(*c*) *The Crown Lands* (*Transfer of Control*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 12), which transferred the control of Crown Lands from the Public Works Department to the Survey Department.

(*d*) *The Freetown Improvement* (*Extension*) (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 13), which empowers the Governor-in-Council, with the approval of the Legislative Council, to make rules for fixing building lines in urban areas, and itself prescribes building lines for certain important thoroughfares in the First Urban Area.

(*e*) *The Medical Practitioners, Midwives, Dentists, and Druggists* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 15), which makes provision for according temporary registration as medical practitioners to medical missionaries whose qualifications are not such as to allow of their permanent registration.

(*f*) *The Native Produce Ordinance* (*No.* 16), which amends and consolidates three Ordinances and seven sets of Rules relating to native produce.

(*g*) *The Minerals* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 17), which makes various amendments in the Minerals Ordinance, No. 36 of 1927, and in particular amends that Ordinance so as to empower the Governor-in-Council, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, to make rules enabling the Governor to invite tenders for the grant of exclusive prospecting licences, mining rights or mining leases in respect of areas in any tract of land in which any mineral has been discovered by Government.

(*h*) *The Freetown Waterworks* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 30) which enables the city Council of Freetown to supply water to areas outside the City.

Ninety-four subordinate legislative measures were also enacted.

BANKS.

2. There are two Banks—the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Messrs. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), Limited—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both Banks.

Each Bank has a savings bank branch, which forms an important part of its business, and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

3. The deposits numbered 11,634, of the value of £29,154 19*s*. 1*d*. as compared with 11,436, value £25,831 12*s*. 1*d*., in 1927.

Withdrawals totalled 7,387 and amounted to £30,227 9*s*. 0*d*., as against 6,134, value £25,365 13*s*. 4*d*., in the previous year.

The average value of each deposit was £2 10*s*. 1*d*. and of each withdrawal £4 1*s*. 10*d*., as compared with £2 5*s*. 2*d*. and £4 2*s*. 8*d*., respectively, in 1927.

During the year, 1,887 accounts were opened and 1,333 closed; the corresponding figures for 1927 were 1,756 and 1,165.

At the end of the year there were 6,964 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit was £64,410 5*s.* 6½*d.*, an increase of 554 accounts and £380 3*s.* 3*d.* for the year, and the average value of each account was £9 5*s.* 0*d.* as against £9 19*s.* 9*d.*

The total sum invested was £61,697 18*s.* 8*d.*

The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,343 7*s.* 6*d.* and the interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,452 13*s.* 2*d.*

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Plant and Animal Products.

4. During the year 1928 the following investigations were carried out for Sierra Leone. All the samples received for examination were forwarded by the Commissioner of Lands and Forests.

Sorleh seed.—Two samples of this seed were submitted and were found to resemble samples of *Pentadesma butyracea* seed previously received at the Imperial Institute. They contained respectively 48.5 and 49.7 per cent. of hard fat, which was found to agree in physical and chemical characters with the fat from the earlier samples. The fat would be suitable for soap or candle making, but the residual meal contains only a low amount of nitrogen and would have little manurial value. A firm of oilseed crushers consulted by the Imperial Institute offered to purchase a trial shipment of 50 tons of the seed at £13 per ton.

Particulars were also furnished to a firm of merchants in Freetown regarding the results of the examination of Sorleh seed at the Imperial Institute and as to the disposal of commercial supplies of the seed in the United Kingdom.

Magbevi nuts (*Chailletia Toxicaria*).—In continuation of work carried out in 1927, Dr. M. Rabinovich, of the School of Medicine, Leeds University, furnished a detailed report on the results of his investigation of these nuts as a rat poison.

Coffee.—A sample of Robusta coffee was found to be of normal composition and fair quality, and was valued in London at from 75s. to 80s. per cwt., with Java Robusta at 88s. to 92s., and Uganda Robusta at 80s. to 84s. per cwt.

Bark of Haronga paniculata.—An extract of this bark is used locally by the natives for protecting cattle from the attacks of certain flies, and it was desired that the insecticidal properties of the bark should be determined. At the request of the Imperial Institute the Rothamsted Experimental Station kindly undertook this investigation, as a result of which it was concluded that the bark is not likely to be of value for the preparation of an insecticide for horticultural purposes.

Egusie seed and Cassava starch.—Information was furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the marketing of Egusie seed and Cassava starch, together with the names of firms in the United Kingdom who were willing to take consignments of these products from Sierra Leone.

Ginger and Chillies.—Particulars regarding crop reports on ginger and chillies and the domestic exports of ginger from the Colony were supplied to firms of produce brokers in London.

Palm Kernels.—In connection with an enquiry regarding the possibilities of developing the export of palm kernels from Sierra Leone to Canada, recommendations were made as to the action to be taken to promote the use of palm kernel cake as a feeding stuff in the Dominion.

Mangrove bark and other products.—Particulars were supplied to a firm in Freetown regarding the trade prospects for mangrove bark and other Sierra Leone products.

Other enquiries dealt with during the year had reference to the identity and uses of Carpaya root ; the cultivation of bananas ; the utilization of mangrove bark as a tanning material ; forestry in Sierra Leone ; and general conditions in the Colony.

The following articles of special interest to Sierra Leone were published during the year in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* :—

"Fruit Gultivation in Sierra Leone."
"Toxic Properties of West African Ratsbane."
"Coffee from Sierra Leone."
"Recent Research on Empire Products."

Mineral Resources.

During the year 1928 the following investigations and inquiries were carried out for Sierra Leone.

Iron ores.—Two samples of iron ore received from the Director of the Geological Survey of Sierra Leone were found to contain about 76 per cent. of ferric oxide, but the presence in each case of large percentages of titanium dioxide rendered the material of no value as iron ores. It is interesting to note that one sample contained a trace of platinum.

Platinum.—A sample of supposed platinum-bearing norite was examined for the Director of the Survey but, although traces of gold were present, no trace of platinum could be detected.

Progress reports furnished by the Director of the Sierra Leone Geological Survey on the occurrence of platinum, iron ore, laterite and lateritic soils were published in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* during the year.

Public Exhibition Galleries. Sierra Leone Court.

The improvements to the Court, made possible as a result of the special grant from the Sierra Leone Government and the donation of private firms, have been continued.

A diorama of Freetown Harbour, provided out of funds generously given by Messrs. Elder Dempster, and one of the piassava industry have been completed and installed in the Court. These diorama were shown at the British Industries Fair ; the former was lent to the Exhibition Commissioner for use in the Sierra Leone exhibit, and the latter was included in the display arranged by the Imperial Institute.

Photographs of the ginger industry have now been received, and a diorama to illustrate this industry will now be put in hand, funds for this purpose having been generously provided by Messrs. Paterson Zochonis.

The samples of products handed over to the Institute at the close of the British Industries Fair have been used to replenish the exhibits in the Court.

The lectures to organised parties from schools have been continued ; also the distribution of samples of products, literature and postcards relating to Sierra Leone.

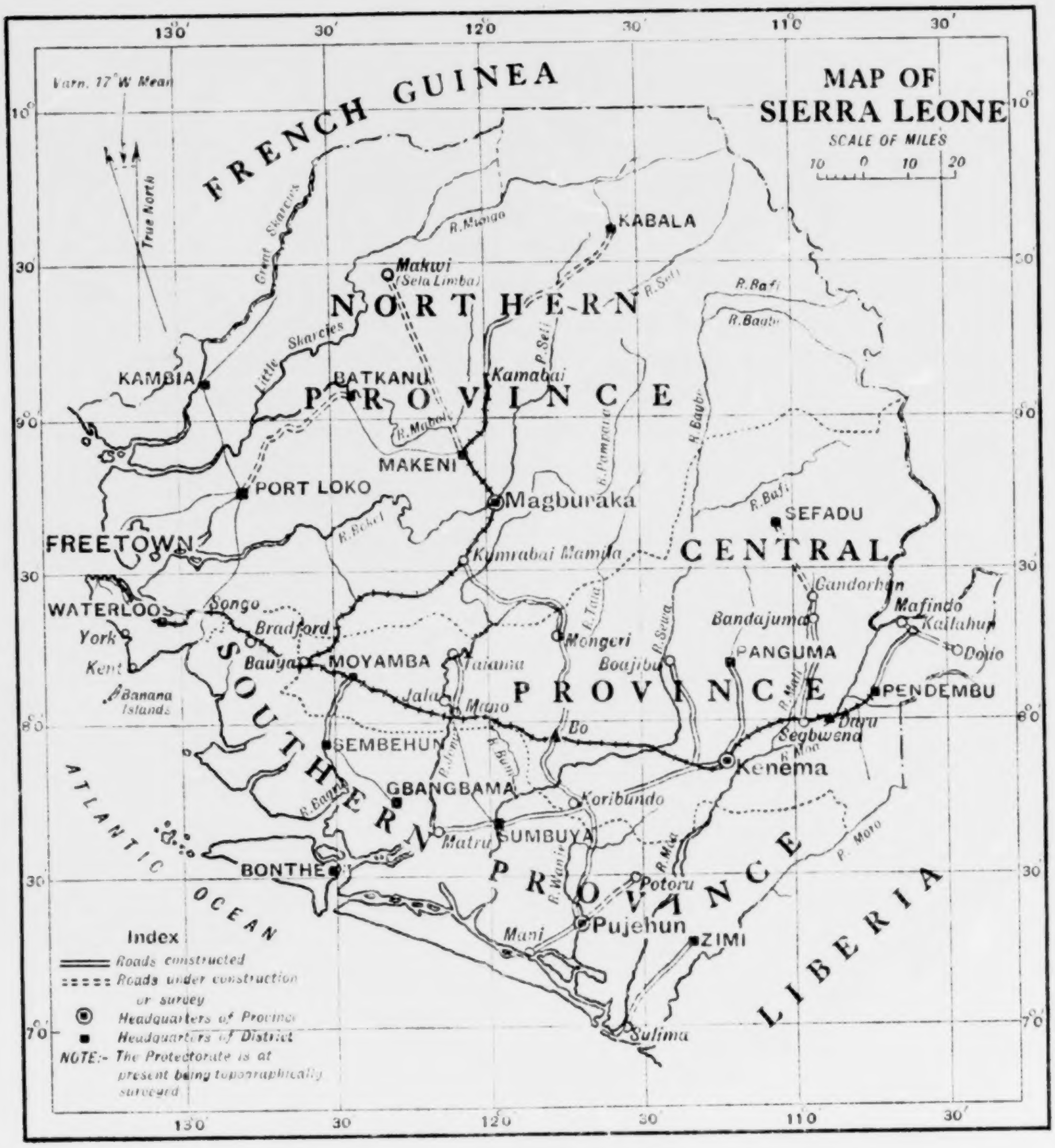
The public attendance at the Galleries during the year was 345,961. Adjoining the Exhibition Galleries is the Cinema Theatre of the Institute, which was equipped and is maintained by the Empire Marketing Board.

Films depicting the life, scenery, and industries. of the various countries of the Empire are shown free daily to the public. During the year under review 214,830 persons attended the various displays.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W.1, OR FROM THE GOVERNMENT STATIONERY STORE, FREETOWN.

Publications.	*Price.*
Governor's Address on the Estimates	1*s.*
Blue Book (postage 1*s.* extra)	12*s.* 6*d.*
Legislative Council Debates	6*d.*—1*s.* 6*d.*
Gazettes	6*d.* per copy
Gazettes Annual Subscription	£1 5*s.*
Gazettes Trade Supplement	4*d.* per copy (1*d.* a leaf)
Handbook of Sierra Leone	10*s.* 6*d.*
Customs Trade Report	5*s.*
Customs Tariff, Rents, Fees, etc.	6*d.*
Report on the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone	1*s.* 6*d.*
Handbook on the Tsetse Fly	5*s.*


MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
Varn. 17° W Mean
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
CENTRAL PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Great Skarcies
Little Skarcies
R. Mongo
R. Seli
R. Bafi
R. Bagbe
R. Mabole
R. Pampana
R. Rokel
R. Taia
R. Sewa
R. Moa
R. Mano
R. Moro
R. Wanje
R. Bum
KABALA
Makwi (Sela Limba)
KAMBIA
BATKANU
Kamabai
MAKENI
Magburaka
PORT LOKO
FREETOWN
WATERLOO
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
MOYAMBA
Kumrabai Mamila
Mongeri
Taiama
Jala
Mano
Bo
SEMBEHUN
GBANGBAMA
Koribundo
SUMBUYA
Matru
BONTHE
Potoru
Pujehun
Mani
ZIMI
Sulima
SEFADU
Gandorhun
Bandajuma
PANGUMA
Boajibu
Mafindo
Kailahun
Dodo
PENDEMBU
Daru
Segbwema
Kenema
13°
12°
11°
10°
9°
8°
7°
30′
Index
Roads constructed
Roads under construction or survey
Headquarters of Province
Headquarters of District
NOTE:- The Protectorate is at present being topographically surveyed

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1929.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

1. Sierra Leone, which has been known to historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make suitable provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. The original grant was made by the local chief, King Tom, and this grant was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembanna.

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In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs, and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who had fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were transported to Sierra Leone and allotted lands at Granville Town (now Fura Bay and Cline Town).

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On the 1st January, 1808 (in pursuance of a Bill in Parliament, which received the Royal Assent on the 8th August, 1807), the Colony, comprising the original settlement and certain adjacent territory ceded to the Sierra Leone Company by King Firama and King Tom, was transferred to the Crown.

About the same time, in March, 1808, a Vice-Admiralty Court was constituted in Sierra Leone for the adjudication of all captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships. These slaves, who were known as "Liberated Africans," were allotted various occupations; and many of them eventually became merged with the earlier inhabitants. Unfortunately disease and lack of proper accommodation caused many casualties from time to time, while large numbers entered military service or emigrated. Nevertheless the population of Freetown rapidly increased from about 1,000 in 1808 to about 13,000 in 1826.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland; and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended so as to comprise the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula, Banana Islands, and a number of small islands adjacent to Sherbro. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with a view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on the 21st January, 1824, that Governor Sir Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827, the Gold Coast Settlements were handed over to a Committee of Merchants (The African

Company) and for a time ceased to be under the Governor of Sierra Leone ; but owing to reports as to the merchants' connivance with the slave trade the Gold Coast was again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes took place in 1850 (by a Charter of the 24th January) when the British territories on the Gold Coast were made a separate Government, and in 1866, when (by a Charter of the 19th February) the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually, a new Charter, dated the 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England.

In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreement between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate ; this broke out when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the house tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

2. The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of North latitude and 10° 40′, and 13° 21′ of West longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper, as already indicated, comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Turner's Peninsula, Sherbro and a number of smaller islands.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil.

Possibly these two characteristics account for the readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords good anchorage close to the shore for the largest ships.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets ; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past fifteen years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past ten years the streets have been greatly improved. At the present time about 800 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. At the present time the Government is engaged in canalizing the main streams and the street drains ; and an expenditure of approximately £200,000 on this work is contemplated. The population of Freetown, according to the 1921 Census, was approximately 45,000.

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The chief town is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers which have their source from a range of hills in the north-east forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia). Most of these rivers have wide estuaries ; and, though none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for launches, lighters, and small tugs, particularly during the rainy season. On the other hand, they have been a severe handicap to motor road-making, which has, nevertheless, progressed rapidly of late, see Section V.

The nature of the country varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south gives place to the more thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57.48 persons to the square mile. The population is somewhat denser in the Central and Southern Provinces than in the Northern Province.

The population of the Protectorate according to the 1921 Census was 1,456,148. The following tribes inhabit the three Provinces :—

Northern Province ...	Susus, Yalunkas, Limbas, Lokkos and Temnes, with some Mandingoes, Fulahs, and Kissis.
Central Province ...	Konnos, Kissis, and Mendes, with some Bandis and Golas.
Southern Province ...	Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the most numerous of all these tribes, and their languages are the most important amongst native dialects in the Protectorate. In Freetown, however, and the surrounding districts a kind of "pidgin" English is spoken by the inhabitants other than literates, and this form of English, which is almost unintelligible to the Englishman himself on his first arrival in the country, is beginning to be understood in most parts of the Protectorate.

Currency, etc.

3. Imperial currency, monetary units, and weights and measures are in use in the Colony and Protectorate. In addition to Imperial currency, West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current, and also West African notes of the values £1 and 10s.

West African currency is issued and controlled by the West African Currency Board : a sum of £25,041 was, during the year under review, received from the Board as the Colony's share of the distribution of income from investments.

I.—GENERAL.

4. The general trade of the Colony was disappointing on the whole, especially during the last six months of the year. The revenue for the year was £48,000 short of the estimate. Against this, however, can be set the fact that expenditure was short of the estimate by £60,000, so that on the financial working of the year the position is sound.

5. The general health of the Colony has continued to be satisfactory. Infant welfare work is being further extended and grants to Missions for the establishment of hospitals in the Protectorate was initiated with promising results.

6. Mr. F. A. Stockdale, C.B.E., Assistant Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State, paid a visit to the Colony during November and advised the Government as to the reorganization of the Agricultural Department and the future policy to be pursued. Later, in December, the Colony was visited by Mr. H. E. Sampson, C.I.E., of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and late Director of Agriculture, Madras, who also gave some useful advice. One result of both these visits was a decision to make a special effort to improve the method of swamp rice growing and to stimulate cultivation of this important product for home consumption and even for export, more particularly in view of the slump in price of palm kernels, on which single product this Colony has hitherto been somewhat dangerously dependent.

7. Mining discoveries continued to offer a prospect of development in a new direction tending to influx of capital and improved import trade.

In this connection the year was noteworthy for the commencement of actual platinum mining in the Colony ; but gold was still in the prospecting stage, though several companies are actively pursuing the discoveries made by the Geological Department. Further discoveries included that of chromite ore (used for chromium plating and in the manufacture of stainless steel) in the Central Province.

The African and Eastern Trade Corporation (now merged into the United Africa Company) continued its preliminary steps towards development of the iron ore deposits at Marampa, where that firm has a concession rented from the Paramount Chief. One important step was the survey of a railway, sixty miles long, from Marampa to Gapul Point. In October, proposals were put forward for the assistance of this very promising mining enterprise by means of a loan from the Colonial Development Fund.

II.—FINANCE.

8. The financial year is from 1st January to 31st December. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

	Revenue. £	*Expenditure.* £
1925	945,581	843,320
1926	855,440	957,155
1927	719,637*	754,610*
1928	826,319	815,374
1929	740,646	871,086

* The figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1925 and 1926 include gross totals of railway revenue and expenditure. From the year 1927 only the net result of the working of the railway is included in the general accounts.

9. The year's working may be summarized as follows :—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1929		294,501
Expenditure for 1929	871,086	
Revenue for 1929	740,646	130,440
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1929		164,061

Of the total revenue in 1929, the sum of £507,047 was derived from Customs duties, £97,503 from indirect taxation, and £136,096 from other sources of revenue.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1929, was £1,787,673, against which the accumulations to the Sinking Funds, for its amortization, amounted at that date to £463,881 11s. 4d.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

10. The Department of Lands and Forests was divided into separate Agricultural and Forestry Departments at the beginning of 1929. The present Agricultural Department now includes the old Division of Agriculture, the Research Division, and the Division of Inspection of Plants and Produce.

11. The system at the Experimental Oil Palm Plantation at Mabang in the Protectorate (the object of which is to test the possibility of competing with the better quality of palm oil now being produced by plantation methods in the East) was reorganized in the light of previous experience. It was found that planting had somewhat outstripped the nursery work, so attention was concentrated on the latter with a view to a large planting programme in 1930. This plantation is now subsidized by the Empire Marketing Board, as well as by a commercial firm particularly interested in the palm oil trade.

12. In the Northern Province some 33 small model plantations of Nigerian oil palms have been established by native chiefs under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. These plantations vary in size from one to five acres and are for the purpose of demonstrating the value of a good type of palm fruit grown under cultivation. Great interest is being taken in these plantations.

13. Amongst the crops to which particular attention was directed in the Protectorate, perhaps the most important, next to palm kernels and palm oil, was swamp rice. The policy of fostering swamp rice cultivation by means of demonstration farms was continued. Also, as indicated in Section I, General, further steps were contemplated in the year under review for promoting this form of cultivation, the value of which is already appreciated by the natives of most parts of the Protectorate ; and these include the introduction of

methods from India and the East after a visit thereto by a selected Agricultural Officer. The use of sweet potatoes as a dry season crop following swamp rice is also being advocated in suitable inland swamps.

14. Piassava is another important product of the Protectorate. Unfortunately certain misunderstandings attended the inspection of this product—such inspection being necessary with a view to insuring that the fibre exported can compete in quality with similar fibres produced elsewhere—and the result was a fall in export early in the year. These difficulties have now been cleared up and the exports are again increasing. The quality of the fibre exported is greatly improved.

15. Other crops in the Protectorate, to which particular attention was paid, were coffee, cocoa, and coconuts. These can only be regarded at present as minor products so far as Sierra Leone is concerned; but coffee growing in particular made considerable progress during the year.

16. A certain amount of success has attended the introduction of ploughs in the Northern Province and some thirty ploughs and harrows have been bought by native chiefs through the Department.

17. The Experimental Fruit Farm at Newton (in the Colony) is now well established and the banana plots have already been planted while nursery work for the citrus plantations is well in hand.

18. As already mentioned, Mr. F. A. Stockdale, C.B.E., the Assistant Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State, visited Sierra Leone during the year, and recommended certain alterations in the policy and administration of the Agricultural Department. The main items in the scheme of reorganization are the establishing of the headquarters of the Department at Njala (the departmental experimental station), the basing of all propaganda and demonstration work upon the results of actual experimental work, a more intensive study of local agricultural needs, and the development of swamp rice both in tidal and inland swamps.

Forestry.

19. During 1929, the Forestry Department, which in 1922 had been merged in the Department of Lands and Forests, became once more a separate entity.

20. The area of reserved natural forest was increased by 115 square miles and the existing reserves were maintained.

21. On the re-formation of the Department the forest policy of the Government was examined, particularly from the view point of economy, and after careful consideration it was decided to—

(*a*) restrict reservation of natural forests to those areas that are of a certain minimum extent;

(*b*) postpone further reservations pending completion of the Topographical Survey ;

(*c*) begin a limited programme of experimental re-afforestation —two waste areas, one in the Central and the other in the Northern Province, and both accessible by rail or otherwise, to be selected for this purpose ;

(*d*) reduce the staff to actual requirements, in the light of the new policy, eliminating certain features of the old policy which are now considered to be redundant.

Mines.

22. Continued progress was made in 1929 in the prospecting and development of the mineral deposits found by the Geological Survey. One mining lease for platinum and 19 exclusive prospecting licences for platinum, gold, and chromite were granted during the year, and 16 prospecting rights were issued. In addition there were numerous applications for exclusive prospecting licences for gold, chromite, ilmenite, and iron ore.

23. Permission to mine on one mining right application was granted at the end of October and up to the end of the year 26 ounces of coarse crude platinum were won.

24. Several areas are being prospected for gold in the Central and Northern Provinces. Satisfactory progress is being made and production of alluvial gold will soon commence.

25. Active development was continued on the Marampa Iron Ore concession, to which special reference is made in Section I, General.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Imports.

26. The import trade of the Colony during 1929 suffered a setback, the total value of imports (£1,789,053) being £265,454 less than that of the previous year. The following tables show the value of the imports in the several classes of goods during the two years 1928 and 1929 :—

	1928.	1929.
	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,625,886	1,474,126
Government Imports	158,903	193,126
Specie	269,718	121,801
Total	£2,054,507	£1,789,053

	1928.	1929.
	£	£
Class I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	433,269	494,865
,, II.—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	140,238	166,429
,, III.—Articles mainly manufactured	1,207,233	1,002,491
,, IV.—Miscellaneous	3,757	3,096
,, V.—Bullion and Specie	270,010	122,172
Total	£2,054,507	£1,789,053

The increase in Class I was brought about by heavier imports of flour, rice, and unmanufactured tobacco; the decrease shown against Class III is mainly a cotton decrease.

27. The revenue derived from the import of spirits now appears to have reached a more or less stable figure (£44,936). Revenue collected from this source in 1913 amounted to £173,565; as compared with this the average revenue thus obtained during the past four years amounts to a sum of £42,957. Spirits of all kinds have been superseded in popular estimation in recent years by beers and light wines.

28. Any depression in trade is first reflected in the import of cotton goods which the African in hard times regards as a luxury and refuses to buy; unmanufactured tobacco, on the other hand, he regards as a necessity of life and will buy even in the hardest times; hence during the year under review, while the import of unmanufactured tobacco showed an increase, the total value of cottons imported (piece goods and other cottons) showed a decrease (as compared with that of the 1928 imports) of £236,201, while the revenue derived from this source decreased by £28,306.

Exports.

29. The Colony's exports showed a corresponding decrease, being valued at £1,532,237 as compared with £1,829,093 in 1928. The following table gives a comparative statement of the principal exports (quantities and values) during the past two years:—

Articles.	Quantities.		Value.	
	1928	1929	1928	1929
			£	£
Cocoa, raw (tons)... ...	84	96	3,176	3,398
Ginger (cwt.)	20,431	30,966	30,582	59,308
Pepper (tons)	105	62	10,554	5,131
Rice (tons)	373	13	5,027	220
Benniseed (tons)	116	179	2,110	2,997
Hides (lb.)...	71,114	97,670	4,386	4,656
Kolas (lb.)...	7,390,560	7,005,078	281,997	266,422
Palm kernels (tons) ...	67,105	60,205	1,150,649	876,308
Palm Oil (tons)	2,525	2,845	66,445	75,153
Piassava (tons)	3,189	1,232	40,369	17,177

Palm Kernels.—The Colony's most important product, palm kernels, the export of which has been steadily rising since 1922, showed a decrease in export commensurate with the general depression in trade experienced during the latter part of the year. From 67,105 tons in 1928 (the highest recorded figure) the export dropped to 60,205 tons, with a loss in value of £274,341 ; this decrease is entirely attributable to the falling away of the European market price and the producer's disinclination to sell his wares at the reduced rates. Of the amount exported Germany purchased 29,703 tons, the United Kingdom 21,319 tons, Holland 7,227 tons, and other countries 1,956 tons.

Palm Oil.—A noticeable feature in the export of palm oil from Sierra Leone (as compared with its export from other oil palm producing countries) is that it does not in its rise and fall reflect the rise and fall in the export of palm kernels ; thus, while palm kernels showed a falling away of 6,900 tons, palm oil (as will be seen from the above table) showed an increase of 320 tons in quantity and £8,708 in value. The greater portion of oil exported went to the United Kingdom, but 117 tons of fresh edible oil were exported to the Gambia Colony.

Kola Nuts.—The quality of the Sierra Leone kola, the Colony's second most important export, bears a reputation that is second to none in West African markets, but this article also shows a falling away as compared with the previous year's production ; the decrease in quantity amounted to 385,482 lb. and in value to £15,575. Sierra Leone kolas are mainly purchased by countries having themselves important export trades in ground nuts, and any falling away of the ground nut market, such as was experienced in 1929, is at once reflected in the export of Sierra Leone kolas. The Colony of Nigeria which has only recently begun to purchase kolas from Sierra Leone, is by far the largest customer; of the total amount of 7,005,078 lb. exported in 1929, Nigeria took 3,916,909 lb., the remainder being divided about equally between the Gambia and French Senegal.

Ginger.—After some lean years the market in ginger showed some improvement, with the result that the shipments during the year showed an increase of 50 per cent. over those of the previous year.

Platinum.—The first shipment of platinum was made in December, 1929, when 21 ozs. valued at £218 were sent to the United Kingdom. Work is now proceeding steadily on the platinum fields, and it is hoped that appreciable exports will be made in the near future.

30. The following table summarizes the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years :—

Year.	*Total Imports less Specie.*	*Re-exports less Specie.*	*Net Imports.*	*Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.*	*Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.*	*Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.*	*Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1925... ...	1,941,314	160,256	1,781,058	1,627,916	153,142	—	541,575	3,737,084
1926	1,626,041	151,121	1,474,920	1,562,525	—	87,605	454,532	4,058,059
1927	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—	534,718	4,529,038
1928	1,784,788	162,659	1,622,129	1,609,614	12,515	—	560,352	4,774,831
1929	1,667,252	180,309	1,486,943	1,319,453	167,490	—	508,139	4,812,566

Direction of Trade.

31. Of the total import trade £977,692 or 54.65 per cent. was from the United Kingdom as compared with £1,239,807 or 60.35 per cent. in 1928. This decrease in British trade was due mainly to the decrease in the imports of cotton goods. The United States of America sent 14.20 per cent. (£253,988), the principal items being tobacco, oil, petrol, lumber and flour. Imports from Germany amounted to 8.15 per cent. (£145,840); France, 5.04 per cent. (£90,224); and foreign West African Possessions 7.08 per cent. (£126,751).

32. Of the gross export trade of £1,532,237, 34.65 per cent. (£531,017) was with the United Kingdom, 29.29 per cent. (£448,750) with Germany, 14.64 per cent. (£224,319) with British West African Possessions, and 7.05 per cent. (£107,797) with Holland.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

33. Although there was a reduction of eight in the total number of steam and motor vessels entering at ports in the Colony during the year the total tonnage shewed an increase of 8,165. Of the 2,400,768 tons entered, 62.04 per cent. were British, 11.2 per cent. German, 10.54 per cent. Dutch and 7.31 per cent. American. The following table gives details of nationality and tonnage entered during the year :—

Nationality.	*Steam and Motor vessels entered.*	
	Number.	*Tonnage.*
American	53	175,532
Belgian	1	73
British...	467	1,489,461
Danish...	2	2,562
Dutch	115	253,140
French...	39	105,842
German	104	268,972
Italian...	14	41,924
Norwegian	11	18,139
Swedish	22	45,123
Total	828	2,400,768

Of the above vessels 21 entered at Sherbro, 29 at Sulima, 3 at Mano Salija, and the remaining 802 at Freetown.

34. The following Shipping Lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports :—

Line.	*From*	*Frequency of Calls.*
Barber West Africa ...	New York ...	Every 20 days with general cargo.
	Mexican Gulf (U.S.A. Ports).	Every 6 weeks.
Elder Dempster	United Kingdom Ports.	Passengers three times each month; cargo frequently.
Fabre-Fraissinet ...	Marseilles ...	Monthly.
Holland West Africa ...	Hamburg, Holland, Bordeaux	Passengers monthly; cargo about every 10 days.
Roma	Italy	Cargo once a month.
Woermann	Hamburg, Holland.	Cargo every fortnight, Passengers monthly.

Railways.

35. The total length of open line at the end of 1929 was 332 miles.

The capital expenditure of the railway to the 31st December, 1929, was £1,740,624.

36. The total revenue of the railway was £233,512 which shows a decrease of £24,647, owing to bad trade, on the figure for the previous year.

The revenue includes £1,856 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme, etc., and £750 subsidy paid to revenue by the Government for the loss on the working of the mountain railway.

37. The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £286,843. This total includes £82,612 for loan charges, pensions, and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses connected with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

38. The receipts per train mile were 11s. 7.13d. and working expenses per train mile 10s. 4.34d. The working expenses include pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

Passenger journeys in the year were 360,815, a decrease of 243,922 on the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 75,473 tons against 78,385 in 1928. The decrease in the number of passenger journeys is due to the closing of the mountain line at the end of February, 1929.

	1913	1927	1928	1929
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Receipts per train mile ...	9 6·11	10 8·46	11 3·44	11 7·13
Working expenses per train mile.	5 1·09	7 6·80	9 2·55	10 4·34
Passengers carried	438,388	589,898	604,737	360,815
Tonnage carried	62,084	77,060	78,385	75,473

39. The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 41 locomotives, 85 coaching vehicles, and 348 goods vehicles.

40. *Motor Bus Service.*—The most important event connected with railway activities during the year was the closing of the mountain section and the substitution therefor of a motor bus service, running from Freetown through Wilberforce to Hill Station, and through Congo Town to Lumley. The mountain section of the railway was originally constructed mainly for the conveyance of Government Officials from Hill Station to Freetown ; it also conveyed African residents from Wilberforce and market produce from Wilberforce and Lumley. It had always been run at a loss and with the increase in motor traffic was yearly becoming a greater burden on railway resources. The substitution of a motor bus service, which it is hoped hereafter to extend eastwards through Cline Town to Kissy, has effected great economies in this direction ; it is gaining in popularity and with the advent of better trade conditions it will no doubt be possible to reap a profit from its activities. The total number of passengers carried during the eleven months it was in operation was 276,848.

Roads.

41. Considerable progress has been made during the past few years in the construction of motor roads in the Protectorate.

At the end of 1927, the total mileage was approximately 250. A further 150 miles were added during 1928, and 140 miles during 1929. The total mileage open for traffic is now 540.

It is hoped during 1930 to add 200 miles of completed road, and by the end of 1931, when the present roads programme should be completed, the total mileage of motor roads in the Protectorate will be approximately 860.

42. The road system in general is designed to furnish feeder roads to the railway, and also, as in the case of the Kambia-Kamakwie road in the Northern Province and most roads in the Southern Province, to provide access to points whence produce may be taken by water transport to the nearest shipping port. Link roads are also provided to enable motor transport vehicles to be moved from one area to another.

The road surfacing is in general of laterite gravel, and only pneumatic tyres are permitted for motor vehicles.

43. Over the larger rivers, where otherwise long and expensive bridges would be required, the traffic is dealt with by pontoon ferries hauled across by hand. In one case, the crossing over the Sewa River on the Bo-Pujehun Road, a steel pontoon ferry has been installed driven by an outboard motor.

Waterways.

44. There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but most of the routes are navigable only by vessels of light draught; they are, however, the means of conveying large quantities of produce to Freetown and Bonthe for shipment. The most important of these are the Bum Kittam, which separates Turner's Peninsula from the mainland in the Southern Province of the Protectorate; this has branches that enable launch communication to be maintained between Bonthe and Sumbuya and Yoni, thus linking up Bonthe with the Protectorate road system at two points; the Port Loko creek which bears all produce from the environs of Port Loko to Freetown; and the river routes from Kambia (on the Great Scarcies River) and Mange (on the Little Scarcies River) in the Northern Province.

Postal.

45. As might be expected in an unfavourable trade year postal business, which has for some years past shown a steady increase, received a set-back. Postal business was conducted, as in 1928, from 22 post offices and 71 postal agencies; money order business from 24 and postal order business from 55 offices.

46. The total revenue collected was £28,063, as against a sum of £31,000 during the previous year. Of this total a sum of £15,160 was received in direct postal revenue, £9,112 was collected in respect of Customs duty on parcels, and £3,179 from the sale of stamps for revenue purposes.

47. The total number of articles passing through the Post Office during the year showed a slight increase, being estimated at 2,096,664 as compared with 2,012,559 in 1928. Of this figure 113,103 were registered articles.

48. Money order transactions decreased from 6,306 (amounting in value to £53,086) in 1928 to 5,671 (value £46,533) in 1929.

The number and value of postal orders issued during the year (58,845 and £40,219) and also the number and value of postal orders paid (47,059 and £33,604) showed decreases on the corresponding figures for the previous year which were postal orders issued 61,305 and £42,407, postal orders paid 48,059 and £34,407.

The parcel post transactions showed a similar falling off, 46,681 parcels being handled as against 51,563 during the previous year. The cash-on-delivery parcels service also showed a slight decrease for the first time since its inception.

Cables and Wireless.

49. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable office and a low power wireless station in Freetown ; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping. A cable (which forms part of the telegraph system referred to below) connects the island of Sherbro with the mainland.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to large numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short wave lengths.

Telegraphs.

50. The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (the eastern terminus of the railway, 227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo ; this system is connected up by branches with most of the District Headquarters in the Protectorate.

Telephones.

51. There are no privately-owned telephone services, the only service (that in Freetown and district) being maintained by the Railway Department.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

52. The Courts of the Colony consist of the Courts of the Tribal Rulers, the Police Court of Freetown, the Freetown Court of Requests, the Courts of the District Commissioners of the Sherbro and Headquarters Judicial Districts, and the Courts of Requests of those Districts, the Coroners' Courts, the Supreme Court in its Summary Jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court in its Ordinary Jurisdiction.

The Courts of the Protectorate consist of the Courts of the Native Chiefs, the Combined Courts, the Courts of the District Commissioners, and the Circuit Court of the Protectorate.

Having appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of both the Supreme Court of the Colony and the Circuit Court of the Protectorate are the West African Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

53. The establishment of the West African Court of Appeal was a highly important measure brought into effect during the year under review. Provision was made for the constitution of this Court in an Order by His Majesty the King in Council dated the 1st November, 1928. This Order was implemented by Ordinances

Nos. 9, 10, and 29 of 1929 of the Legislature of this Colony. The Court has both civil and criminal jurisdiction in appeal cases arising in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia ; its Judges consist of the Judges of the Supreme Courts of those Colonies together with the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, the President of the Court being the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast. The Court sits at Accra for the hearing of cases sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Gold Coast and at Freetown for those sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Supreme Court of the Gambia.

Police.

54. The Police Force operates only in the Colony proper (the Freetown Police District, and the Headquarters Judicial District). The figures that follow, therefore, relate only to crimes reported in those localities. Figures relating to crime in the Protectorate are given under " Court Messengers " (*vide* Paragraph 58).

55. The health of the Police Force continued to be satisfactory ; during the month of June, 1929, the Force was moved into newly constructed barracks at King Tom and it is hoped that the provision of adequate modern accommodation will still further improve the general health of the Force.

56. A good standard of discipline has been maintained ; no case of bribery or corruption was brought to notice, three constables were sent to prison and dismissed, and six were dismissed. There was only one case of drunkenness reported throughout the year.

57. There was a further slight diminution in crime, as may be seen from the following table :—

Year.	*Cases Reported.*	*Arrests made.*	*Convictions.*	*Per cent.*
1927 ...	2,209	2,259	1,815	80.3
1928 ...	1,782	1,935	1,498	77.4
1929 ...	1,634	1,893	1,505	79.4

The number of serious crimes reported in the Colony is as follows :

	1928.	1929.
Murder	1	—
Manslaughter	3	2
Housebreaking	—	5
Burglary	7	3
Shopbreaking	—	3
Larceny	328	405
Receiving	21	16

Court Messengers.

58. Police work in the Protectorate is performed by a force of Court Messengers working under the direction of the Political

Officers. They also act as escorts for Political Officers and guards on specie and stores, etc. The total number of Court Messengers employed is 386.

The number of serious crimes tried in the Circuit Court of the Protectorate is as follows :—

	1928.	1929.
Murder	5	10
Rape	—	1
Arson	1	3
Burglary	2	7
Housebreaking	—	4
Shopbreaking	—	3

Prisons.

59. The number of persons committed to the Freetown Prison during 1928 and 1929 was as follows :—

	1928.	1929.
Males	723	819
Females	10	18
Juveniles	22	16
Total	755	853

The daily average number of prisoners in custody at the Freetown Prison during the year 1929 was Males 241, Females 2.

The number of prisoners committed to the Protectorate gaols (*i.e.* at Pujehun, Kenema, Moyamba, and Batkanu) in 1929 was 795 as compared with 876 during the previous year. The daily average number in custody was 151.

A serious outbreak of dysentery followed by beri-beri occurred at the Freetown Prison during the month of March. A close enquiry into the origin of this outbreak was made by the Government Pathologist and a Medical Officer attached to the Sir Alfred Jones Research Laboratory and a report has been issued. At all other prisons the health of the inmates was good.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

60. Several public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year, among these the more noteworthy were the following :—

Court Messengers' Barracks, District Commissioner's Office, and Clerks' Quarters, Kailahun.

This work was necessitated by the removal of the headquarters of the Pendembu District from Pendembu to the more healthy and, in many ways, more convenient locality of Kailahun. This work was also the beginning of a scheme for the substitution of permanent quarters for Court Messengers, in place of the unsatisfactory mud huts hitherto provided, throughout the Protectorate.

New Police Barracks, Freetown.

The old barracks, erected originally for the now disbanded Sierra Leone Mountain Gunners, were obsolete, inconvenient and unhealthy. The erection of new barracks should have a beneficial effect on the morale and health of the Police Force.

New Public Offices, Bonthe.

The offices at Bonthe have for many years been unsatisfactory; the new offices will greatly facilitate the work of a busy port.

Agricultural Offices, Laboratories, etc., and five Bungalows at Njala.

This work was necessitated by the transfer of the headquarters of the Agricultural Department from Freetown to Njala where its principal experimental work has in the past been conducted.

Nursing Sisters' Quarters, Connaught Hospital.

The European Nursing Sisters attached to the Connaught Hospital have in the past been unsatisfactorily housed in old buildings of native construction.

Workshops, Prince of Wales' School, Freetown.

This work was undertaken in consonance with the decision to broaden the basis of the school's activities by including in its curriculum the teaching of various handicrafts.

Medical Officer's Quarters, Makeni.

Makeni is a steadily growing town and the increasing need for permanent accommodation for the Medical Officer has now been met.

Extension to the Electric Power Station, Freetown.

As originally planned the power station has proved to be insufficient to supply the present needs and potential requirements of Freetown; an additional, and larger, engine has therefore been purchased and is being installed in the extended station.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Hospitals and Asylums.

61. *European Hospital, Hill Station.*—There has been a considerable reduction in numbers admitted compared with 1928, more marked in Government officials than non-officials. In 1929 the number of cases admitted was 138 (54 of whom were Government officials) as against 163 (with 70 officials) in 1928.

62. *Connaught Hospital, Freetown.*—The new surgical wards containing 52 beds were opened on the return of the Surgical

Specialist from leave at the end of August, and are being used to full capacity. That there was urgent need for these wards is shewn in the increase of 240 cases admitted, exclusive of the maternity section. The maternity section also shews a steadily growing appreciation on the part of the public. In 1929 there were 2,228 admissions and 353 in the maternity section as compared with 1,945 admissions and 311 in the maternity section in 1928.

63. The out-patient department has been kept busy, with a large increase in subsequent attendances.

	New cases.	*Subsequent attendances.*
1928	13,864	47,040
1929	14,265	59,441
Venereal Diseases Clinic.	596	1,209

64. *Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe.*—This institution continues to do useful work. 439 cases were admitted during the year. Out-patients numbered 3,965 with 16,817 subsequent attendances.

65. *Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Central Province.*—This hospital has now completed its second year, and the Medical Officer reports increasing numbers of patients from the surrounding districts, some coming from a considerable distance.

In-patients, 141 ; Out-patients (new cases), 3,387 ; subsequent attendances, 4,197.

66. *Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province.*—This is the second Protectorate type hospital to be completed, and it is much appreciated by the population of the district. The work done in its first year is greater than that of Bo in its second, and extension is already asked for.

In-patients, 152 ; Out-patients (new cases), 3,981 ; subsequent attendances, 11,817.

67. *Mission Hospitals.*—There are two hospitals at Kamabai, Northern Province, and Jaiama (Kono), Central Province, assisted by a grant-in-aid from the Government. These hospitals are managed by American doctors, assisted by American registered nurses. Large numbers of natives come to them for treatment, and they are doing very useful work.

68. *Mental Hospital, Kissy.*—The accommodation has been improved by a wall dividing the male section, so that the quiet patients may be segregated from the noisy and troublesome. The number of inmates remains fairly constantly in the vicinity of 100 ; there were 106 inmates on the 1st January and 111 at the end of the year.

69. *The Kissy Infirmaries.*—These institutions house a number of aged and infirm people, chiefly derelicts and incurables. They are always filled to capacity, particularly the male infirmary, and owing to the influx of Protectorate labour, the latter is likely to

require extension in the near future. The number of inmates is usually between 70 and 80.

Population, Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, and Infantile Mortality.

70. The following table gives the figures for the year :—

	Population, 1921 *Census.*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.	*Infantile Mortality per* 1,000 *births.*
Freetown ...	44,142	24.8	32.8	319
Colony (other than Freetown).	41,021	22.6	24.5	266

Owing to the non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate (which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births) appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and with a view to reducing it, infant welfare work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded females by 28.5 per cent. and 24.3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

71. Owing to the fact that the last Census was taken in 1921, there is probably a considerable error in the population figure. There is no means of correcting this since methods of estimation employed elsewhere are inapplicable here owing to movement of population.

Sanitation.

72. The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Owing to the existence of yellow fever or plague in several West African Colonies, both to the north and south of Sierra Leone, port health work continued to be heavy. Practically all ships arriving in Freetown harbour were visited by the Medical Officer of Health. Passengers arriving from infected ports were kept under strict surveillance and, where necessary, their baggage was disinfected.

Both Colony and Protectorate remained free from epidemic and disease.

Pneumonia and bronchitis have an appreciable effect on the death-rate, especially in the early months of the year when the dry north-east wind (Harmattan) prevails.

73. The Superintendent of the Freetown Waterworks reports that there was an acute shortage of water during the year, the most acute since the inauguration of the Freetown Waterworks in 1902. The shortage of water lasted from the 22nd March to the 24th May, and was by no means local as the drought seemed to be rather widespread.

The total consumption for all purposes was 168,561,000 gallons, including 3,276,000 gallons supplied to shipping.

74. *Record of Vaccinations performed* :—

	1928.	1929.
Number vaccinated	13,953	10,909
,, successful	8,417	7,041
,, unsuccessful	2,609	1,730
,, not inspected	2,927	2,138

Climate.

75. The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. There are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east " Trades " and the resultant wind, known as the " Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and it is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

July, August and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall. The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland. Rainfall records, taken in Freetown (Tower Hill) 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 48 years indicate a decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands. From 1882 to 1891 the average was 166.07, while from 1912 to 1921 it was 122.66, but the average of the last years is considerably above the latter figure.

The highest rainfall recorded was 204.19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102.34 inches in 1914.

The rainfall in Freetown in 1929 was 155.15 inches. The highest rainfall recorded in any one day during the year was 7.02 inches on the 25th July. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 68 degrees on the 11th January and 3rd November ; the highest, 93 degrees, on the 31st March.

IX.—EDUCATION.

76. Following upon the important changes connected with the amalgamation of the Missions' primary schools with re-grouping of standards, etc., which took place in 1928, a new Education Ordinance was passed during 1929 providing a complete Code for all Colony schools. Special provision was made for the payment of grants to secondary school teachers and increased assistance was provided for domestic science. At the present time all boys' schools in the Colony are conducted by Churches or Missions, with three exceptions, viz., the Model School (Primary), the Prince of Wales' School (Secondary) and the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School; these are under Government management.

77. In the Colony there are at present 49 assisted primary schools (including the Model School) with 6,407 pupils on the rolls and an average daily attendance of 4,591. The secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows :—

Boys.—6 schools with 40 primary, 197 preparatory, and 477 secondary pupils (a total of 714 pupils).

Girls.—6 schools with 206 primary, 333 preparatory, and 158 secondary pupils (a total of 697 pupils).

The Prince of Wales' School, established by the Government in 1925, makes special provision for the teaching of science and is liberally equipped with science laboratories and apparatus. During the year under review the curriculum was further extended by the inclusion of technical studies, well-equipped shops having been erected for wood and metal work.

There are three schools providing for the education of boys in trade preparation work, the Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), the Church of England Technical School (carpentry and theoretical building construction), and the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry).

In connection with the education of girls, domestic science is rapidly gaining ground and is being recognised as a valuable part of the curriculum. Training for Nurses is given both at the Connaught Hospital and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

A Lady Medical Officer of the Government visits the schools and conducts clinics for children needing medical attention.

Higher education for boys (including a scheme for teacher training, assisted and partially controlled by Government) is furnished at Fourah Bay College, a missionary undertaking affiliated to Durham University. An arts course and a theological course are provided and a beginning has recently been made with a science course. Pass Degrees are awarded.

There is also a scheme for training of women teachers at the Wesleyan Girls' School, Wilberforce, near Freetown. This, like the scheme for boys at Fourah Bay College, is financed and largely controlled by Government.

78. In the Protectorate the Government controls 11 schools with 680 pupils (boys). These, with the exception of Bo School, and the Protectorate Central College at Koyeima, are rural schools of junior primary grade.

Bo School has existed for the past 25 years for the education of the sons and nominees of Paramount Chiefs. Until 1929 it was a separate institution having no connection with the Education Department, but in that year it was transferred to the Department. It aims at providing for the boys a sound education with preparation for the important work they will probably be called upon to undertake in connection with their Chiefdoms.

Until 1929 nothing higher than standard VII education had been attempted in the Protectorate, but the Government has now established a Central Protectorate College at Koyeima, the nucleus of its pupils being drawn from the old Agricultural College at Njala. The intention is to build up an educational centre for the Protectorate with a College for Higher Education, Teacher Training and Technical Instruction.

In the Protectorate also 11 Missionary Societies conduct 76 assisted schools, with 3,853 boys and 958 girls on the rolls, and 69 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 1,700 pupils. Proposals for reorganization of the system of education at these schools, in conjunction with the Protectorate College and other Government schools, have been put forward for consideration ; but no radical change has yet been made, pending actual experience of the changes effected in the Government schools and of the new undertaking at Koyeima.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Survey Department.

79. *Topographical Branch.*—Excellent progress was made in horizontal framework construction, 42 points being fixed during the year by astronomical observation and the reception of wireless time signals. The total number of points fixed at the end of the year amounted to 111. A further 11 fixings will suffice for the completion of this framework.

The vertical framework was completed during the year. This consists in all of approximately 1,670 miles of levels, of which about 1,200 miles have been executed by the Topographical Branch since it commenced operations towards the end of 1925. Some 330 miles were obtained from the railway and 140 miles from the Public Works Department.

By the end of 1928, approximately17,000 square miles of territory had been surveyed in detail. The area remaining to be dealt with during the period 1st January, 1929, to 30th June, 1930, was estimated at 11,000 square miles. Of this area fully 7,000 square miles were surveyed during the year. No great difficulty should be experienced in completing the work during the first six months of 1930.

Twenty-four sheets of the " one inch " topographical map have now been published. Sixteen sheets were despatched to Accra during the year for reproduction.

The largest staff of surveyors in the field at any one time amounted to 5 Europeans and 24 Africans.

80. *Cadastral Branch.*—The work carried out by the Cadastral Branch during the year may be divided into two main categories, namely revenue surveys and Government surveys.

The majority of the revenue surveys carried out were those of areas over which applications for Exclusive Prospecting Licences had been received by Government. 31 of such surveys were executed. The revenue derived amounted to slightly over £1,800, of which some £1,150 had been collected before the end of the year. All surveyed areas have been very thoroughly beaconed.

The Government surveys consisted chiefly in the " breaking down " of the triangulation in the western coastal region of the Colony. An additional officer was appointed for this work and arrived early in September. During the last four months of the year 4 secondary and 28 tertiary points were observed and computed. A considerable amount of useful work was also carried out in the neighbourhood of the Kissy flats and at Songo.

81. *Survey School.*—The Survey School at Kortright finally closed during October, the Instructor proceeding on leave prior to transfer to the Gold Coast. This school, which was in being for about four years, accomplished the work for which it was instituted. That work was the training of an adequate number of young Africans for the carrying out of topographical survey of the Protectorate. 24 pupils passed through the school, the course of training lasting in all for three years. But for this establishment the topographical survey within the time and at the cost previously fixed could not have been accomplished.

82. *Lands Branch.*—Steady progress has been made during the year. The Register of Land Transactions is now practically complete and the branch will be in a position to take over the various documents as soon as a satisfactory record store is provided.

All the usual work of the branch—e.g., acquisitions, leases, claims, etc.—has been carried out satisfactorily, but calls for no special comment in this brief report.

Geological Department.

83. During 1929 the Department actively continued the investigation of the geology and mineral resources of the Colony and Protectorate.

Reconnaissances were made in all three Provinces and certain areas, namely, the Kambui Hills and the Kangari Hills in the Central Province, the Sula Hills in the Northern Province, and the hills of the Colony, were mapped and prospected in somewhat greater detail. Field work has advanced sufficiently far to permit of the publication of a provisional geological map of Sierra Leone.

During the rainy season the field officers were engaged in research work at the Imperial College of Science, London. Numbers of rocks were sliced and examined microscopically and a few of the more typical rocks were analysed. A large collection of concentrates from stream gravels was also carefully examined.

The Director attended the Fifteenth International Geological Congress held in South Africa in July and August, 1929, as the delegate of the Government.

84. The Mines Section of the Department was kept busy throughout the year. Details are given in another section of the Mining Titles issued, and applied for, and of the present state of mineral development (*vide* paragraphs 22–24).

Legislation was passed covering the use of explosives, licences to purchase minerals and the survey of exclusive prospecting licences.

85. Towards the end of 1929 mining operations were commenced on the rich alluvial platinum deposits in the Big Water near York. A good deal of the platinum is coarse and angular and is obviously of very local origin. The platinum is associated with black sand which is essentially ilmenite.

86. The auriferous belt of rocks in the Northern and Central Provinces was traced to the north and south and was found to be nearly 90 miles long. Further discoveries of alluvial gold were made and one of these new prospects is now being developed and will soon reach the producing stage.

87. Deposits of chromite were found near Lago and Jalahun in the Central Province and near Tuba in the Southern Province.

In the Lago area the chromite occurs as large lenses in serpentine and talcose rocks and is exposed at intervals over a length of about 2½ miles. Several assays show that the content of chromium sesqui-oxide (Cr_20_3) averages about 45 per cent.

Assays of the chromite from Jalahun, Niawa Chiefdom, show from 31 per cent. to 44 per cent. Cr_20_3, and an average of 36.4 per cent. Cr_20_3.

The Tuba deposits are situated about 30 miles from the sea coast. Three preliminary assays of surface samples show from 30.9 per cent. to 34.6 per cent. Cr_20_3 and indicate that the deposit is low grade.

88. Large deposits of ilmenite occur in the Colony in the vicinity of the port of Freetown. Assays of massive ilmenite from bedded deposits near Hastings and Waterloo show from 42 per cent. to

50 per cent. titanium dioxide (TiO_2), and samples of crude black sand obtained by panning the alluvial deposits in five different localities assayed from 46.8 per cent. to 52.9 per cent. TiO_2 with an average of 50.3 per cent. TiO_2.

89. Extensive deposits of high grade iron ore were discovered in the Koinadugu District near Sakasakala, Keimadugu, and Sokoya. Assays of picked samples shew an average of 62.4 per cent. iron, 0.85 per cent. silica, 0.010 per cent. phosphorus, and 0.148 per cent. sulphur. A bulk sample taken over a width of 1,000 feet across the strike near Sakasakala assayed 55.94 per cent. iron, 3.03 per cent. silica, 0.096 per cent. phosphorus, and 0.05 per cent. sulphur.

90. Recent field work indicates the existence of deposits of corundum in many places in Sierra Leone. Most of the known deposits are alluvial and no attempt has yet been made to find the source of the corundum. In at least two of the occurrences the corundum is so heavily concentrated that it must be of very local origin.

A deposit of alluvial crystal corundum containing crystals up to at least 2¼ lb. in weight occurs near Kondemnia. A deposit of emery was found in the same district.

XI.—LABOUR.

91. Unskilled labour in the Colony and Protectorate is readily available, the wages paid averaging about 1s. per diem. The demand for skilled labour, varying in accordance with prevailing trade conditions, is met by artisans trained by various Government departments and missions.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

92. Thirty Ordinances were enacted during the year 1929. Of these, 25 either amended or repealed existing measures, two dealt with supply and the three remaining Ordinances relate to matters which had not previously formed the subject of legislation :—

The three latter Ordinances were :—

(*a*) The Freetown Municipality Officers' Superannuation Ordinance (No. 8) which provides for the payment of superannuation allowances and gratuities to persons employed by the City Council of Freetown.

(*b*) The West African Court of Appeal (Criminal Cases) Ordinance (No. 10), which provides for the creation of a Court to hear appeals from convictions by or in the Supreme Court or the Circuit Court ; this Ordinance came into force by Proclamation on the 10th March, 1930.

(*c*) The Auditor Pensions Ordinance (No. 19), which provides for the payment of pensions to certain officers formerly in the service of the Government of the Colony as Auditor and Assistant Auditor.

The principal amending Ordinances passed were the following :—

(*a*) The West African Court of Appeal (Civil Cases) Ordinance (No. 9), which provides for the creation of a Court to hear appeals in civil cases from the Supreme Court and the Circuit Court, in accordance with the provisions of the West African Court of Appeal Order in Council, 1928. This Ordinance is to be read and construed as one with the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1924, Part XI of which it repeals. The Ordinance was slightly amended by the West African Court of Appeal (Civil Cases) (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 29).

(*b*) The Public Transport Services (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13), the main object of which is to enable the General Manager of the Railway to sue and to be sued in respect of breaches of contract occurring in connection with the business of the Public Transport Services.

(*c*) The Coroners (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14), which reduces the demands upon persons qualified to serve as jurors by providing that the Coroner shall hold an " enquiry " instead of an " inquest " except in certain specified cases. The Ordinance also adopts the provisions of the law in force in England with regard to viewing the body.

(*d*) The Forestry (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16), which allows clearances to be made in forest reserves and restricted areas for the purposes of mining and widening of roads, surveying, and obtaining supplies of water.

(*e*) The Interpretation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 20), which provides that the titles " Sanitary Department " and " Sanitary Service " should be altered to " Health Department " and " Health Service " respectively, and that a similar change should be made in the titles of members of the West African Medical Staff who are engaged on sanitary work.

(*f*) The Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 26), which (1) facilitates the registration in the Colony of trade marks registered in the United Kingdom at any time during the continuance of registration there and (2) makes the continuance of such registration in the Colony dependent on the continuance of registration in the United Kingdom.

(*g*) The Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 28), which provides for the transfer of the duties of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths to the Deputy Director of the Health Service as Chief Registrar of

Births and Deaths, and enables a gradual extension of the practice of registering births and deaths to be made in the Protectorate.

(*h*) The Education Ordinance (No. 30), which repeals and replaces the Education Ordinance, 1924, provides for the creation of a Board of Education to supervise education in the Colony and Protectorate and for the appointment by the Board of two sub-committees, one for the Colony and one for the Protectorate. The Governor in Council is empowered, on the recommendation of the Board, to make rules for the purpose of regulating the procedure of the Board and its sub-committees and with respect to education in the Colony and Protectorate. Rules for these purposes, for the Colony, have been made and are contained in the First Schedule to the Ordinance. Rules for the Protectorate have not yet been made.

One hundred subordinate legislative measures were also enacted.

Banks.

93. There are two banks—the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), Limited—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

94. The deposits numbered 12,353 of the value of £28,233 16s. 2d. as compared with 11,634, value £29,154 19s. 1d. in 1928.

Withdrawals totalled 8,359 and amounted to £31,062 11s. 10d. as against 7,387 value £30,227 9s. 0d. in the previous year.

The average value of each deposit was £2 5s. 9d. and of each withdrawal £3 14s. 3d. as compared with £2 10s. 1d. and £4 1s. 10d. in 1928.

95. During the year, 2,056 accounts were opened and 1,521 closed; the corresponding figures for 1928 were 1,887 and 1,333.

At the end of the year there were 7,499 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit was £63,041 12s. 3½d., an increase of 535 accounts and a decrease in value of £1,368 13s. 3d. The average value of each account was £8 8s. 2d. as against £9 5s. 0d. The total sum invested was £61,682 18s. 8d. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,342 5s. 3d. and the interest capitalized and credited to depositors was £1,425 4s. 1d.

XIII.—IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Plant and Animal Products.

96. During 1929 the following investigations and enquiries were carried out for Sierra Leone.

Coir.—Samples of coir prepared in the Bonthe District from two types of coconut were received from the Director of Agriculture. The samples were uneven in colour, length, and fineness, somewhat dusty, and contained pieces of non-disintegrated husk. The fibre was however on the whole of good length and strength, and contained a good proportion of bristle fibre (i.e., fibre over 9 inches long). Owing to the crude character of the samples they were regarded by merchants as unsaleable on the London market, and it was suggested by the Imperial Institute that further samples, graded in the same manner as reference specimens furnished by the merchants, should be prepared and forwarded for examination and valuation.

97. *Palm Kernels.*—Information was furnished to the Director of Agriculture regarding methods employed in the drying of palm kernels in Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, and as to plant suitable for use in Sierra Leone for the drying of palm kernels and other tropical products.

98. *Piassava fibre.*—Arising out of the Inspection of Produce Ordinance in Sierra Leone which requires that only piassava fibre which reaches a specified quality shall be exported, enquiries were made by the Imperial Institute in the United Kingdom and on the Continent regarding a machine to clean the fibre. No suitable machine was found to be available for this purpose, but names of firms who were willing to consider designing a machine to meet the requirements called for were transmitted to the Director of Agriculture, together with suggestions as to the possibility of hand-cleaning the fibre.

99. *Citrus Products.*—In connection with an enquiry conducted by the Empire Marketing Board regarding the possibilities of the citrus industry in Sierra Leone, a list of names of firms likely to be interested in the extension of lime and lemon cultivation in the Colony was suggested to the Board.

100. *Soya Beans.*—Information was furnished to a representative of the Department of Agriculture as to the possibility of producing soya beans in Sierra Leone for export to the United Kingdom. It was suggested that a trial consignment should be forwarded to the Imperial Institute with a view to commercial report and valuation.

101. *Vegetable drugs and poisonous plants.*—In connection with an enquiry which is being undertaken by an officer of the Medical and Sanitary Department, information was furnished regarding West African vegetable drugs and poisonous plants which had been examined at the Imperial Institute.

102. *Publications.*—The following articles of special interest to Sierra Leone were published during the year in the " Bulletin of the Imperial Institute " :—

Citrus Products.
The Transportation of Vegetable Oils in Bulk.
Recent Research on Empire Products.
Bibliography (Plant and Animal Products).

Mineral Resources.

103. During the year 1929 the following investigations and inquiries were carried out for Sierra Leone.

Brown Coal.—A sample of lignite, received from the Sierra Leone Branch of commercial organization, was found to have a calorific value of 3,850 calories, and to contain about 5 per cent. of sulphur. A yield of crude oil about 21 gallons per ton was obtained on distillation. The material was on the whole inferior to good-quality Nigerian lignite. The names of firms who would be capable of undertaking briquetting trials with this lignite were suggested.

104. *Corundum.*—A sample received for examination from a private firm proved to be of good quality and readily marketable in the United Kingdom at £13 10s. 0d. per ton.

105. *Marampa Iron Ore.*—The Colonial Development Advisory Committee, in connection with an application for assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, wished to have the opinion of the Imperial Institute Mineral Resources Department on a record of assays of iron ore from Marampa, and a statement was accordingly sent giving the desired criticism.

106. *Platinum.*—An inquiry was received, and details were supplied, regarding the conditions under which licences to prospect for platinum in Sierra Leone could be obtained.

107. *New uses and prospective development of uses for chromite.*—An inquirer asked regarding new uses for chromite in view of its possible occurrence in paying quantities in Sierra Leone. Information was given and recent literature shown to him.

108. *Corundum, rutile and ilmenite.*—Copies of comprehensive statements on the occurrences and utilization of corundum, rutile and ilmenite referred to in the Annual Report of the Institute for 1928 were supplied to an inquirer.

109. *Publications.*—During the year special reports on the research work on minerals carried out in Sierra Leone were supplied by the Director of the Geological Survey, and published in the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute No. 2.

Public Exhibition Galleries. Sierra Leone Court.

110. The exhibits have been overhauled and relabelled and statistical charts and maps of distribution added to the more important commercial products.

A selection of exhibits with showcase and containers and the panorama of Freetown Harbour were lent to the Exhibition Commissioner for the Sierra Leone section of the British Industries Fair. At the close of the Fair a number of samples of products were handed over for use in the Court and these have been used to replace deteriorated samples.

Enlarged photographs to illustrate crops have been prepared from negatives placed at the disposal of the Institute by the Exhibition Commissioner. Five transparencies have been made from photographs supplied by Mr. M. T. Dawe, O.B.E., and fixed in the windows of the Court.

A loan collection of exhibits illustrating the oil palm and piassava industries was lent for a special exhibition which was held at Croydon by the Church Missionary Society.

Progress with the Ginger Panorama has not been possible during the year owing to pressure of work in the studio.

Lectures to organized parties from schools have been continued, also the distribution of literature and post cards relating to Sierra Leone.

Nearly 400,000 persons visited the Exhibition Galleries during the year.

APPENDIX.

List of certain publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Stationery Store, Freetown.

		Price.			*Postage.*		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1.	Royal Gazette, per copy	0	0	6		—	
2.	Royal Gazette, subscription per annum	1	5	0	0	4	4
3.	Revised Laws, Vols. I, II, and III, half pigskin	7	7	0	*0	3	3†
4.	Revised Laws, Vols. I, II, and III, buckram	6	6	0	*0	3	3†
5.	Revised Laws, separate Vols., half pigskin, each	2	9	0	*0	1	3§
6.	Revised Laws, separate Vols., buckram	2	2	0	*0	1	3§
7.	Revised Laws, Protectorate Vols.	1	10	0	*0	1	3‡
8.	Revised Laws, Customs and Trade Vol.	1	0	0	0	0	8
9.	Law Reports	1	0	0	0	0	5
10.	Rules of Supreme Court, cloth	0	3	10	0	0	6
11.	Rules of Supreme Court, half calf	0	5	4	0	0	7
12.	Ordinances, etc., unbound, 1*d.* a leaf, but not less than, per copy	0	0	4	0	0	1
13.	Ordinances, bound volume	0	8	6	0	0	5
14.	Blue Book	0	12	6	0	1	4
15.	Customs Trade Report	0	5	0	0	0	5
16.	Trade Supplement to Royal Gazette	0	0	3	0	0	1
17.	Customs Tariff, Rents, Fees, etc.	0	0	6	0	0	1
18.	Governor's Address on the Estimates	0	1	0	0	0	1
19.	Legislative Council Debates, No. 1 of any year	0	1	6	0	0	2½
20.	Legislative Council Debates, subsequent Nos. each	0	0	6	0	0	2
21.	The Handbook of Sierra Leone	0	10	6	0	0	8
22.	Bibliography of Sierra Leone	0	8	6	0	0	4
23.	Report of the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone	0	1	6	0	0	2
24.	Handbook on the Tsetse Fly (Austen)	0	5	0	0	0	6
25.	Report of Temne Speaking Peoples	0	4	0	0	0	5
26.	Specimen of Languages	0	4	0	0	0	3
27.	Handbook of the Temne Language	0	5	0	0	0	3½
28.	Handbook of the Sherbro Language	0	10	6	0	0	3
29.	Mende Language	0	9	0	0	0	6

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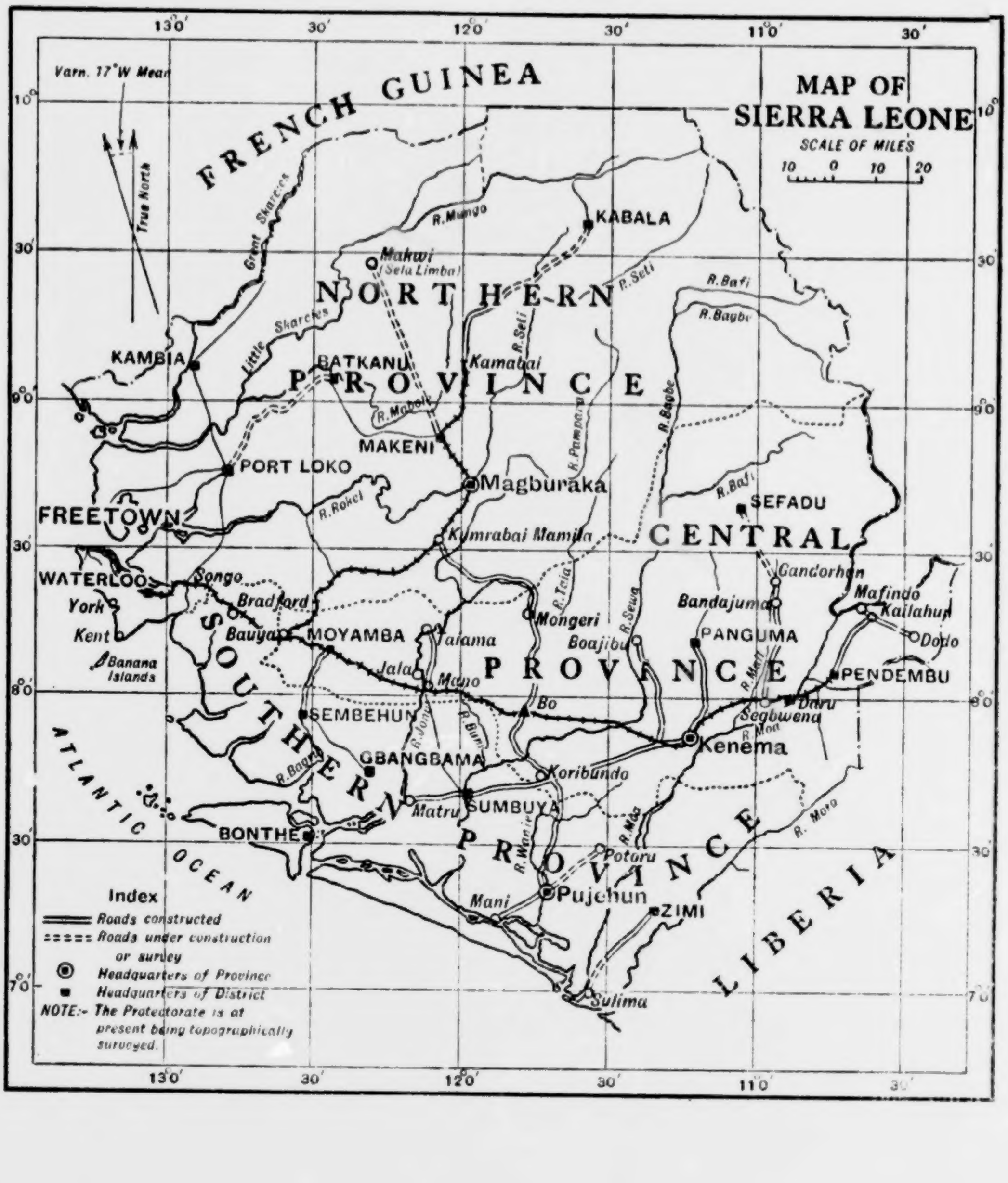
* Inland Parcel Post. Imperial or Foreign Parcel Post at the rates for †22 lb.; § 7 lb.; ‡ 5 lb.


MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
Varn. 17°W Mean
True North
13°0'
30'
12°0'
30'
11°0'
30'
10°
30'
9°0'
30'
8°0'
30'
7°0'
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
CENTRAL PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Great Skarcies
Little Skarcies
R. Mongo
R. Seli
R. Bafi
R. Bagbe
R. Mabole
R. Pampana
R. Rokel
R. Teia
R. Sewa
R. Mafi
R. Moa
R. Moro
R. Jong
R. Bum
R. Bagru
R. Waanje
R. Moa
KABALA
Makwi
(Sela Limba)
KAMBIA
BATKANU
Kamabai
MAKENI
PORT LOKO
Magburaka
FREETOWN
WATERLOO
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
MOYAMBA
Kumrabai Mamila
Mongeri
Taiama
Jala
Mano
Bo
SEMBEHUN
GBANGBAMA
SUMBUYA
Matru
Koribundo
BONTHE
Potoru
Pujehun
Mani
ZIMI
Sulima
SEFADU
Gandorhun
Bandajuma
PANGUMA
Boajibu
Mafindo
Kailahun
Dodo
PENDEMBU
Daru
Segbwena
Kenema
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Roads constructed
Roads under construction or survey
Headquarters of Province
Headquarters of District
NOTE:- The Protectorate is at present being topographically surveyed.

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Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679]. 3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report. [Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

REPORT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL ENTOMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE. June, 1925. [Cmd. 2490.] 9d. (10d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4s. 0d. (4s. 6d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE. 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. 6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9d. (10d.)

REPORT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL MYCOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, 1927. (Colonial No. 45.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 7d.).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928 [Cmd. 3268] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

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BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
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ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
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(7297)

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. **1532.**

SIERRA LEONE

REPORT FOR 1930

(*For Report for 1928 see No. 1430 (Price 1s. 3d.) and for Report for 1929 see No. 1476 (Price 1s. 6d.)*)

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1930.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

1. Sierra Leone, which has been known to historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make suitable provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. The original grant was made by the local chief, King Tom, and this grant was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembanna.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs, and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were transported to Sierra Leone and allotted lands at Granville Town (now Fura Bay and Cline Town).

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On the 1st January, 1808 (in pursuance of a Bill in Parliament, which received the Royal Assent on the 8th August, 1807), the Colony, comprising the original settlement and certain adjacent territory ceded to the Sierra Leone Company by King Firama and King Tom, was transferred to the Crown.

About the same time, in March, 1808, a Vice-Admiralty Court was constituted in Sierra Leone for the adjudication of all captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships. These slaves, who were known as "Liberated Africans," were allotted various occupations; and many of them became merged with the earlier inhabitants. Unfortunately disease and lack of proper accommodation caused many casualties from time to time, while larger numbers entered military service or emigrated. Nevertheless the population of Freetown rapidly increased from about 1,000 in 1808 to about 13,000 in 1826.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland; and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended so as to comprise the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula, Banana Islands, and a number of small islands adjacent to Sherbro. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with a view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on the 21st January, 1824, that Governor Sir Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were handed over to a Committee of Merchants (The

African Company) and for a time ceased to be under the Governor of Sierra Leone; but owing to reports as to the merchants connivance with the slave trade the Gold Coast was again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes took place in 1850 (by a Charter of the 24th January) when the British territories on the Gold Coast were made a separate Government, and in 1866, when (by a Charter of the 19th February) the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually, a new Charter, dated the 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England.

In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreement between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration (see the last paragraph under Section I, General).

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate; this broke out when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the house tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

2. The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of North latitude and 10° 40′ and 13° 21′ of West longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper, as already indicated, comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Turner's Peninsula, Sherbro, and a number of smaller islands.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite The Pensinsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil.

Possibly these two characteristics account for the readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, but its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords good anchorage close to the shore for the largest ships.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past 20 years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past 10 years the streets have been greatly improved. At the present time about 800 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. At the present time the Government is engaged in canalizing the main streams and the street drains; and an expenditure of approximately £200,000 on this work is contemplated. The population of Freetown, according to the 1921 Census, was approximately 45,000.

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The chief town is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers which have their source from a range of hills in the north-east, forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia). Most of these rivers have wide estuaries; and, though none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for launches, lighters, and small tugs, particularly during the rainy season. On the other hand, they have been a severe handicap to motor roadmaking, which has, nevertheless, progressed rapidly of late, see Section V.

The nature of the country varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south gives place to the more thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57.48 persons to the square mile. The population is somewhat denser in the Central and Southern Provinces than in the Northern Province.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, was 1,456,148. The following tribes inhabit the three Provinces :—

Northern Province ...	Susus, Yalunkas, Limbas, Lokkos and Temnes, with some Mandingoes, Fullahs, and Kissis.
Central Province ...	Konnos, Kissis and Mendes, with some Bandis and Golas.
Southern Province ...	Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros, and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the most numerous of all these tribes, and their languages are the most important amongst native dialects in the Protectorate. In Freetown, however, and the surrounding districts a kind of " pidgin " English is spoken by the inhabitants other than literates, and this form of English, which is almost unintelligible to the Englishman himself on his first arrival in the country, is beginning to be understood in most parts of the Protectorate.

Currency, etc.

3. Imperial currency, monetary units, and weights and measures are in use in the Colony and Protectorate. In addition to Imperial currency, West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current, and also West African notes of the values £1 and 10s.

West African currency is issued and controlled by the West African Currency Board : a sum of £24,347 was, during the year under review, received from the Board as the Colony's share of the distribution of income from investments.

I.—GENERAL.

4. The general trade of the Colony was very disappointing and early in the year it appeared that the revenue would fall considerably below the estimate. The price of palm kernels, the principal export of the country, fell from £20 4s. per ton in January to £11 per ton in December. The action of the Government in reducing the railway freight on this commodity during the latter part of the year was instrumental in assisting the export which would otherwise have shown a very considerable decrease.

The revenue for the year was nominally £27,057 short of the estimate; but as a special sum of £76,863 was credited to revenue in respect of reimbursement from the Domestic Loan, the actual deficit by comparison with the estimate was £103,920. On the other hand, owing to a vigorous campaign of economy, the expenditure was £27,652 below the estimate; so on balance the loss on the working of the year was £76,268.

5. There were no epidemics during the year and the general health of the Colony was satisfactory. There was an outbreak of anthrax among cattle in the Protectorate, but with close co-operation between the health and political officers and the native population it was quickly stamped out.

6. During the year arrangements progressed for the formation of a Company—the Sierra Leone Development Company Limited—to work the iron ore deposits at Marampa, for which the Colonial Development Fund is lending the Colony £500,000. An actual start was made in October on the construction of the port at Pepel Point and of the railway thence to Marampa, a distance of just over 50 miles.

Progress was made with two other schemes financed in part from the Colonial Development Fund, viz., a passenger jetty at Freetown and the canalization of streams within the city of Freetown.

7. Further deposits of haematite ore were discovered in the Northern Province by the Geological Survey Department and the area was closed to prospecting.

Gold mining was commenced during the year.

8. Towards the end of the year arrangements were made for an alteration in the political divisions of the Protectorate, by combining the Central and Southern Provinces to form one Southern Province—the division as from the 1st January, 1931, will be :—

Northern Province ...	Bombali, Kambia, Karene, Koinadugu, and Port Loko Districts.
Southern Province ...	Bo, Bonthe, Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Moyamba, and Pujehun Districts.

The amalgamation of the former Central and Southern Provinces into one (Southern) Province was rendered possible by improved communications, namely, the new motor road system, on which Government had spent considerable sums within the last few years. For the same reason the number of districts was reduced from ten (total for the old Central and Southern Provinces) to seven, since Government was satisfied that the administration could be carried out more economically and in some respects more satisfactorily by such a reduction.

On the other hand, no change was made in the Northern Province where districts were already comparatively large and where new motor roads had not altered routes to quite the same extent as in the new Southern Province.

II.—FINANCE.

9. The financial year is from 1st January to 31st December. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1926	855,440	957,155
1927	719,637*	754,610*
1928	826,319	815,374
1929	740,646	871,086
1930	742,972†	805,725

10. The year's working may be summarized as follows :—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1930		164,060
Expenditure for 1930	805,725	
Revenue for 1930	742,972	
		62,753
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1930 ...		101,307

Of the total revenue in 1930 the sum of £426,943 was derived from Customs duties, £96,488 from indirect taxation, and £219,541 from other sources of revenue.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1930, was £1,990,173, against which the accumulations to the Sinking Funds, for its amortization, amounted at that date to £506,630 5s. 0d.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

11. The Department of Agriculture was reconstituted as one organism in which the needs of the instructional work are served closely and directly by the advisory work (economics, entomology,

---

* The figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1925 and 1926 include gross totals of railway revenue and expenditure. From the year 1927 only the net result of the working of the railway is included in the general accounts.

† Includes £76,862 13s. 6d. Reimbursement from Domestic Loan on account of various Loan Works charged to Surplus Balances.

mycology) under guidance from Headquarters. Following this plan further, the old Division of Inspection of Plants and Produce was made part of the departmental organism, so that now the officers concerned co-operate intimately for the chief work of produce inspection as broadly conceived, namely, produce improvement.

12. Culture demonstration plots of the inferior native oil palms attained no interest of practical value, and were abandoned in favour of what the instinct of the native cultivator rightly recognizes as the best, namely, the extension of Nigerian oil palms through nursery work and the demonstration plots of chiefs and others. The observations on the exotic oil palms at Njala Experimental Station were continued for the purpose of forming a plan of the work with a definite object.

13. Success continued with the extension of the growing of swamp rice in inland swamps, especially in the Central Province; and for this the employment of practical farmers instead of semi-literate book-learners well justified itself. The substitution in a large degree of swamp rice for upland, together with the promised active co-operation of the Administration for encouraging farming so as to leave protection belts of secondary bush around hills and along contours, instead of farming down the slopes, gives hope for a significant reduction of the damage through shifting cultivation in this way. For assisting in controlling the encouragement of rice-growing in tidal swamps, a visit of an Agricultural Officer to India and Ceylon in 1931 has been arranged. Useful normal features of native farming, such as following swamp rice with sweet potatoes and interculture of suitable millets with rice, have been encouraged. For extending the basis of future work, detailed information regarding native crops as grown and used at present is being compiled by the Agricultural Officers.

14. Improvement of cultivation is taking place mainly through the plough and harrow, especially in the Northern Province; and that of preparation of produce has been successfully concerned chiefly with piassava and raffia. Extension of the growing of coffee, and to a smaller degree of cacao, has continued; but the resources of the Department do not yet provide for adequate instruction regarding these crops.

15. A standing plan of campaign against locusts, including a bilateral news service with French Guinea, was constituted.

16. Normal progress was made with the work supported from Surplus Balances and by contributions by the Empire Marketing Board and (for the oil palm) by a local firm, for obtaining information for encouraging plantation agriculture in bananas and citrus at Newton Experimental Farm and oil palms at Masanki Plantation

(Mabang). In the former, experimental shipments of bananas should be possible in 1931, and in the latter, the same year should see the completion of the planting of the 2,200 acres that have been laid out for the purpose.

Forestry.

17. There was no increase during the year in the area of reserved forest, the total remaining at 803 square miles or 2.9 per cent. of the area of the country.

18. Two areas of deforested land (1 square mile at Tabe and about 300 acres at Port Loko) which had been selected for experimental re-afforestation were surveyed by the Survey Department with a view to their reservation under the Forestry Ordinance.

19. At Tabe a nursery was established, a promising nursery method evolved, and stock raised for planting in 1931.

20. Through the good offices of the Provincial Administration, tribal authorities were persuaded to protect, under their own laws, a number of small areas of forest.

21. The routine protection of Forest Reserves by means of patrols and the maintenance of boundaries was carried on as usual.

Mines.

22. In 1930 there were six mining developments of major interest. They were :—

(i) The conclusion of arrangements necessary to finance the scheme for exploiting the Marampa iron ore deposits, including the formation of the Sierra Leone Development Company Limited with a registered capital of £600,000, and the loan to that company of a sum of £500,000 by the Government of Sierra Leone, with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund.

Following this and the completion of prospecting and development work on the property, the latter part of the year saw the commencement of construction of the Pepel Point-Marampa railway.

(ii) The discovery by the Geological Department of large iron ore deposits in the vicinity of the Tonkolili River and its tributaries, Koinadugu District, Northern Province. Subsequently this area was closed to prospecting.

(iii) The commencement of gold mining in the Protectorate, and the opening up of several of the new gold areas found by the Government Geological Survey.

(iv) The favourable developments on the Lago chromite area near Hangha. Hangha station is on the main line of the Government railway system.

(v) The enactment of legislation to allow the grant of special exclusive prospecting licences over large areas to interests willing and able to furnish the funds and technical knowledge to prospect such areas.

(vi) The fall in the price of platinum from £13 to £6 15s. 0d. between the beginning and end of the year.

23. At the end of the year, excluding the Marampa Concession, ground held under mining titles exceeded 40 square miles and was covered by twenty-four titles.

Of this, ground covered by exclusive prospecting licences was divided between various minerals, compared with 1929, as follows :—

	1929. *Sq. miles.*	1930. *Sq. miles.*
Gold	14	22
Platinum	20	8
Chromite	1	10

From this table may be seen the effect on enterprise of the fall in the price of platinum and of the announcement of new gold discoveries.

24. Owing to the number of mineral discoveries announced by the Geological Department many had not yet been examined on behalf of private interests by the end of 1930, so that ample scope is left for prospecting during the coming year.

25. In November and December the components of two slackline cableway bucket and scraper units were imported for installation on gold properties, but they were not in operation at the end of the year.

26. Mining of precious minerals, by hand methods of working, resulted in an output of 542 ounces of coarse crude platinum and 895 ounces of unrefined gold bullion.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Imports.

27. The total value of imports into the Colony during 1930 amounted to £1,424,175, being £364,878 less than the figures recorded in the previous year.

28. The following tables show the value of imports by classes during the past two years :—

	1929.	1930.
	£	£
Commercial Imports ...	1,474,126	1,217,960
Government Imports ...	193,126	117,771
Specie	121,801	88,444
Total	£1,789,053	£1,424,175

	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink, and tobacco	494,865	381,007
Class II.—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	166,429	161,708
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	1,002,491	790,442
Class IV.—Miscellaneous ...	3,096	2,402
Class V.—Bullion and specie	122,172	88,616
Total	£1,789,053	£1,424,175

A general decrease is recorded in the various classes during the year as compared with the figures for 1929. Reduced imports of foodstuffs were mainly responsible for the deficit of £113,858 in Class I., a decrease of £69,789 being recorded under this head. The decrease in foodstuffs was general.

29. The import of potable spirits fell by 3,207 gallons (£1,464) and that of wines by 41,649 (£9,457). Unmanufactured tobacco recorded a considerable decrease both in quantity and value, 1,364,854 lb. valued at £62,809 having been imported as compared with 1,815,845 lb. (£86,629) in the previous year.

Class II. showed a decrease of £4,721. Imports of lumber fell by £10,636, which deficit was however offset by increased importations of oil fuel, £1,201; illuminating oil, £2,807; lubricating oil, £846; motor spirit, £1,429; pitch, £700; tar, £1,286; and groundnuts, £1,424. The total quantity of commercial coal imported in 1930 was 38,062 tons (£53,502) as against 32,199 tons (£46,070) in 1929. The quantity of commercial coal imported was the largest for many years, a clear indication that the bunkering trade continues to improve.

The greatest decrease in Class III. was in cottons, a deficit of £48,375 was recorded in cotton piece-goods and in cottons, other, £30,334.

Exports.

30. The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to £1,216,046 as against £1,532,237 in 1929—a decrease of £316,191. Exports are valued as they lie on the exporting ship, such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

31. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of the quantity and value of the principal exports during the last three years:—

Articles.	*Quantities.*			*Value.*		
	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*
				£	£	£
Cocoa, raw (tons)...	**84**	**96**	**80**	**3,176**	**3,398**	**2,548**
Ginger (cwt.) ...	**20,431**	**30,966**	**39,437**	**30,582**	**59,308**	**57,228**
Peppers (tons) ...	**105**	**62**	**111**	**10,554**	**5,131**	**4,421**
Rice (tons) ...	**373**	**13**	**175**	**5,027**	**220**	**2,151**
Benniseed (tons) ...	**116**	**179**	**41**	**2,110**	**2,997**	**538**
Hides (lb.)... ...	**71,114**	**97,670**	**94,455**	**4,386**	**4,656**	**2,853**
Kolas (lb.)... ...	**7,390,560**	**7,005,078**	**5,087,077**	**281,997**	**266,422**	**186,197**
Palm Kernels (tons)	**67,105**	**60,205**	**56,641**	**1,150,649**	**876,308**	**664,591**
Palm Oil (tons) ...	**2,525**	**2,845**	**3,652**	**66,445**	**75,153**	**79,310**
Piassava (tons) ...	**3,189**	**1,232**	**2,417**	**40,369**	**17,177**	**36,582**
Platinum (oz.) ...	**—**	**21**	**488**	**—**	**218**	**3,631**

Palm Kernels.—The continued glut of whale oil and oil seeds in the European markets resulted in a very heavy decline in the price of kernels, which fell from £16 15s. 0d. in January—in itself a low price—to £10 19s. 8d. in December, the lowest price on record. Although the value decreased by £211,717, only a moderate decrease in the tonnage exported was recorded—56,641 tons having been shipped as against 60,205 tons in the previous year. Of the quantity shipped, Germany purchased 29,375 tons, United Kingdom 17,713 tons, Denmark 7,567 tons, and other countries 1,986 tons.

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years:—

Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	Tons.	£
1926	65,000	1,116,780
1927	65,436	1,077,450
1928	67,105	1,150,649
1929	60,205	876,308
1930	56,641	664,591

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil in 1930 amounted to 3,652 tons valued at £79,310 as compared with 2,845 tons of the value of £75,153 in 1929, or an increase in quantity and value of 807 tons (£4,157). The bulk of this oil went to the United Kingdom.

Kola Nuts.—This product is the second most important article of export from the Colony and, like palm kernels, a decrease both in quantity and value is recorded. The total quantity exported was 5,087,077 lb. as compared with 7,005,078 lb. in 1929 and in value £186,197 as against £266,422. Exports to Nigeria and Senegal fell respectively by 962,149 lb. and 921,556 lb., a slight increase of 1,736 lb. was, however, recorded in shipments to the Gambia. The low price offered for groundnuts in Europe was reflected in the diminished export of kola nuts from this Colony, which product is mainly purchased by groundnut producing countries in West Africa.

Ginger.—8,471 cwt. were shipped in excess of the previous year although the value decreased by £2,080. The total quantity exported was 39,437 cwt. valued at £57,228 as compared with 30,966 cwt. (£59,308) in 1929. The quality of ginger exported has improved considerably in recent years, the decrease in value being, as in the case of palm kernels, attributable to European market prices.

Peppers.—The quantity of peppers exported exceeded that of any previous year, but a shrinkage in the value was recorded. 111 tons valued at £4,421 were shipped as compared with 62 tons valued at £5,131 in the previous year. Nigeria purchased 39 tons more than in 1929, whereas shipments to the United Kingdom were 21 tons less. Over-production in East Africa of this commodity was reflected in a decrease in value in the European markets.

Platinum.—In 1929, 21 oz. valued at £218 were shipped. The quantity exported in 1930 was 488 oz., valued at £3,631.

Gold.—384 oz. troy, valued at £1,617, were shipped to the United Kingdom as compared with the minute initial shipment of 5 dwt. (£1) exported in 1929.

Direction of Trade.

32. The following comparative table shows the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years :—

Year.	*Total Imports less Specie.*	*Re-exports less Specie.*	*Net Imports.*	*Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.*	*Excess of Net Imports over Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.*	*Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.*	*Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1926	1,626,041	151,121	1,474,920	1,562,525	—	87,605	454,532	4,058,059
1927	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—	534,718	4,529,038
1928	1,784,788	162,659	1,622,199	1,609,614	12,515	—	560,352	4,774,831
1929	1,667,252	180,309	1,486,943	1,319,453	167,490	—	508,139	4,812,566
1930	1,335,731	141,066	1,194,665	1,047,340	147,325	—	428,369	4,621,113

Of the total import trade of £1,424,175, £783,812 or 55.04 per cent. came from the United Kingdom as compared with £977,692 or 54.65 per cent. in 1929. The United States of America accounted for £206,711 or 14.51 per cent. and Germany £108,336 or 7.61 per cent. The percentage of imports from foreign West African Possessions remains the same.

Of the gross export trade of £1,216,046, £372,682 or 30.65 per cent. went to Germany, £337,376 or 27.74 per cent. to the United Kingdom, Denmark £86,196 or 7.09 per cent., United States of America £32,574 or 2.68 per cent., and £31,729 or 2.6 per cent. to foreign West African Possessions.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

33. There was a decrease of 10 in the number of steam and motor vessels entering the Colony during the year, and in tonnage 89,769. Out of a total of 2,310,999 tons entered 61.08 per cent. was British, 11.14 per cent. German, 7.93 per cent. American, 7.61 per cent. Dutch, and 6.36 per cent. French. The following table gives details of nationality and tonnage entered during the year :—

	Steam and Motor vessels entered.	
Nationality.	*Number.*	*Tonnage.*
American	55	183,256
British	460	1,411,538
Danish	2	2,252
Dutch	85	175,921
French	51	147,052
German	105	257,502
Greek	1	2,104
Italian	22	72,559
Norwegian	16	15,786
Spanish	4	5,780
Swedish	17	37,249
Total	818	2,310,999

Of the above vessels 11 entered at Sherbro, 4 at Mano Salija, 2 at Sulima, and the remaining 801 at Freetown.

34. The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from West African ports :—

Line.	*From.*	*Frequency of calls.*
Barber West African Line.	**New York ...**	**Every 20 days with general cargo.**
Elder Dempster ...	**United Kingdom ports.**	**Passengers three times each month ; cargo frequently.**
Do. ...	**Continental ports**	**Bi-monthly.**
Do. ...	**Canada ... ...**	**Monthly.**
Fabre-Fraissinet ...	**Marseilles ...**	**Monthly.**
Holland West African Line.	**Hamburg, Amsterdam, Bordeaux.**	**Passengers monthly ; cargo about every 10 days.**
Navigazione Triestina Libera.	**Genoa ... ...**	**Cargo once a month.**
Woermann	**Hamburg, Southampton.**	**Passengers monthly.**
Do.	**Hamburg, Amsterdam.**	**Cargo every fortnight.**

Railways.

35. The total length of open line at the end of 1930 was 311 miles.

The capital expenditure of the railway to the 31st December, 1930, was £1,741,708.

36. The total revenue of the railway was £190,577, which shows a decrease of £42,935, owing to bad trade, on the figure for the previous year.

The revenue includes £1,558 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme, etc.

37. The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £266,922. This total includes £84,284 for loan charges, pensions, and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

38. Passenger journeys in the year were 258,834, a decrease of 108,768 on the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 70,949 tons against 75,473 in 1929. The decrease in the number of passenger journeys is due to fewer passengers travelling owing to bad trade, the closing of the Makeni-Kamabai Section and motor competition between Freetown and Wellington.

Receipts per train mile :—

	1913.		*1927.*		*1928.*		*1929.*		*1930.*	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts per train mile	**9**	**6·11**	**10**	**8·43**	**11**	**3·44**	**11**	**7·13**	**10**	**10·71**
Working expenses per train mile.	***5**	**1·09**	***7**	**6·80**	**9**	**2·55**	**10**	**4·34**	**11**	**4·17**
Passengers carried ...	**438,388**		**589,898**		**604,737**		**367,602**		**258,834**	
Tonnage carried ...	**62,084**		**77,060**		**78,385**		**75,473**		**70,949**	

*** Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.**

39. The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 40 locomotives, 85 coaching vehicles, and 348 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

40. As foreshadowed in paragraph 40 of the Annual General Report for 1929, the motor bus service was extended eastwards to Cline Town and Kissy during the year. Operations on a small scale were commenced on this route—which runs parallel to the railway—on the 28th of April, and continued to the end of the year without an addition to the fleet of omnibuses. Another omnibus was ordered for this service and arrived in December.

The primary object of the extension of the bus service to Kissy was the recapture, if possible, of the passenger traffic which had been deflected from the railway, and to provide a check against any further extension of private road transport in direct competition with the railway in and beyond this area. The railway local passenger traffic between Water Street and Kissy had fallen from 93,173 passengers in 1928 to 60,365 in 1929 and to 16,219 in the first four months of 1930.

From May to December, 1930, the number of passengers carried by omnibus between Water Street and Kissy was 57,716, whilst economies in railway personnel and stores were effected as a result of the cancellation of unremunerative local trains.

On the original routes between Water Street, Lumley, and Hill Station the number of passengers increased from 276,848 (11 months) in 1929, to 348,963 in 1930. The total number of passengers carried by omnibus on all routes was 406,679.

The loss on working (excluding interest and depreciation), which in 1929 was £822, was reduced, in 1930, to £342.

Roads.

41. Considerable progress has been made during the past few years in the construction of motor roads in the Protectorate. At the end of 1928 the total mileage was approximately 400. A further 140 miles was added in 1929 and 164 miles during 1930. The total mileage open for traffic at 31st December, 1930, was 704; in addition there were some 28 miles of earthworks completed but not open to traffic. This leaves about 116 miles to complete the programme which was spread over a period up to the end of 1931, apart from some 40 miles which have now been excluded from the programme.

42. The road system in general is designed to furnish feeder roads to the railway, and also, as in the case of several roads in the Southern Province, to provide access to points whence produce may be taken by water transport to the nearest shipping port. Link roads are also provided to enable motor transport vehicles to be moved from one area to another.

The road surfacing is in general of laterite gravel, and only pneumatic tyres are permitted for motor vehicles.

43. Over the larger rivers, where otherwise long and expensive bridges would be required, the traffic is dealt with by pontoon ferries hauled across by hand. In one case, the crossing over the Sewa River on the Bo-Pujehun Road, a steel pontoon ferry has been installed driven by an outboard motor.

Waterways.

44. There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate. Most of the routes are navigable only by vessels of light draught; they are, however, the means of conveying large quantities of produce to Freetown and Bonthe for shipment. The most important of these are the Bum Kittam, which separates Turner's Peninsula from the mainland in the Southern Province of the Protectorate; this has branches that enable launch communication to be maintained between Bonthe and Sumbuya and Yoni, thus linking up Bonthe with the Protectorate road system at two points; the Port Loko creek which bears all produce from the environs of Port Loko to Freetown; and the river routes from Kambia (on the Great Scarcies River) and Mange (on the Little Scarcies River) in the Northern Province.

Postal.

45. There was a further general falling off in Postal business during 1930 due to the continuance throughout the year of the depression in trade. Postal business was conducted from 22 Post Offices and 50 Postal Agencies; money order business from 24 and postal order business from 57 offices.

46. The total revenue collected was £26,925 as against a sum of £28,063 the previous year. Of this amount, £13,764 was derived from direct postal revenue, £8,773 from Customs duty on parcels, and £4,388 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

47. As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds dealt with during the year was 2,014,666 as compared with 2,096,664 in 1929. Included therein are 110,089 registered articles.

48. Money order transactions decreased from 5,671 (amounting in value to £46,533) in 1929 to 5,079 (value £42,813) in 1930.

49. The number and value of postal orders issued during the year (55,351 and £36,437) and also the number and value of postal orders paid (45,086 and £31,339) showed decreases on the corresponding figures for the previous year which were :—orders issued 58,845, value £40,219, orders paid 47,059, value £33,604.

50. The parcel post transactions also showed a falling off—44,614 parcels being handled as against 46,681 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (with Great Britain only), 12,131 parcels were received, value £23,495, as compared with 13,052, value £25,969, in 1929.

Cables and Wireless.

51. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable office and a low power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping. A cable (which forms part of the telegraph system referred to below) connects the island of Sherbro with the mainland.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to large numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short wave-lengths.

Telegraphs.

52. The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (the eastern terminus of the railway, 227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo; this system is connected up by branches with most of the District Headquarters in the Protectorate.

Telephones.

53. There are no privately-owned telephone services, the only service (that in Freetown and district) being maintained by the Railway Department.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

54. The Courts of the Colony consist of the Courts of the Tribal Rulers, the Police Court of Freetown, the Freetown Court of Requests, the Courts of the District Commissioners of the Sherbro and Headquarters Judicial Districts, and the Courts of Requests of those Districts, the Coroners' Courts, the Supreme Court in its Summary Jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court in its Ordinary Jurisdiction.

The Courts of the Protectorate consist of the Courts of the Native Chiefs, the Combined Courts, the Courts of the District Commissioners, and the Circuit Court of the Protectorate.

Having appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of both the Supreme Court of the Colony and the Circuit Court of the Protectorate are the West African Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

55. The West African Court of Appeal has both civil and criminal jurisdiction in appeal cases arising in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia; its Judges consist of the Judges of the Supreme Courts of those Colonies together with the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, the President of the Court being the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast. The Court sits at Accra for the hearing of cases sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Gold Coast, and at Freetown for those sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Supreme Court of the Gambia.

Police.

56. The Police Force operates only in the Colony proper (the Freetown Police District, and the Headquarters Judicial District). The figures that follow, therefore, relate only to crimes reported in those localities. Figures relating to crime in the Protectorate are given under "Court Messengers" (*vide* paragraph 58).

The health of the Police continued to be satisfactory, although there has been a slight increase in the number of men admitted to hospital.

A good standard of discipline has been maintained; one case of bribery was discovered, one non-commissioned officer and two constables were sent to prison and dismissed, and one non-commissioned officer and six constables were dismissed.

There was no case of drunkenness on duty reported throughout the year.

57. There was a slight increase in the number of cases reported, as may be seen from the following table. Larceny is on the increase.

Year.	*Cases Reported.*	*Arrests made.*	*Convictions.*	*Per cent.*
1927 ...	2,209	2,259	1,815	80.3
1928 ...	1,782	1,935	1,498	77.4
1929 ...	1,634	1,893	1,505	79.4
1930 ...	1,712	1,885	1,483	78.6

The number of serious crimes reported in the Colony is as follows:—

	1928.	1929.	1930.
Murder	1	—	—
Manslaughter	3	2	3
Housebreaking	—	5	2
Burglary	7	3	13
Shopbreaking	—	3	5
Larceny	328	405	588
Receiving	21	16	32
Wounding	—	—	15

Court Messengers.

58. Police work in the Protectorate is performed by a force of Court Messengers working under the direction of the Political Officers. They also act as escorts for Political Officers and guards on specie and stores, etc. The total number of Court Messengers employed is 378.

The number of serious crimes tried in the Circuit Court of the Protectorate is as follows :—

	1929.	1930.
Murder	10	7
Rape	1	2
Arson	3	6
Burglary	7	4
Housebreaking	4	2
Shopbreaking	3	Nil.

Prisons.

59. The number of persons committed to the Freetown Prison during 1929 and 1930 was as follows :—

	1929.	1930.
Males	819	831
Females	18	28
Juveniles	16	43

The daily average number of prisoners in custody at the Freetown Prison during the year 1930 was :—

Males	241
Females	3
Juveniles	11

The number of persons committed to the Protectorate prisons was 1,280 males and 11 females. The daily average number in custody was 194 males.

All persons committed during the year 1930 to the prisons specified in Orders in Council Nos. 11 and 18 of 1929 are included in the statistics for the Protectorate prisons.

The health of the prisoners was good. No epidemic occurred at any of the prisons.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

60. Among public works of importance undertaken during the year were the following :—

Freetown Wharf Repairs.

This work, commenced late in 1928, consists of dumping stones, in weight up to 10 cwt. each, along the foot of the wharf wall and under the jetties as a remedial measure to protect the foundations of the wall and jetties. A diver has been employed where necessary to hand pack the stone round the piles of the jetties. The total stone dumped up to 31st December amounted to 22,360 tons.

Canalization of Streams and Completion of Street Drainage, Freetown.

The first section of this work consists of the canalization of Saunders Brook from the City Boundary to its outfall in Kroo Bay of a total length of some 1,920 yards; also the completion of the street drainage discharging into Saunders Brook.

The cost of this work, which is an anti-malarial measure, is being partly borne from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund.

Approximately 460 yards of the canalization was completed up to the end of the year; also some 2,000 yards of street drainage was laid. In addition, compounds adjacent to the canal and streets were levelled and graded to obliterate mosquito breeding places.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Hospitals and Asylums.

61. *European Hospital, Hill Station.*—The reduction in the number of admittances noticed in 1929 has been continued in 1930, the number of Government officials admitted to hospital again being smaller, no doubt due to the protection afforded them by living in European residential areas.

In 1929 the total number of cases was 138, including 54 Government officials. In 1930 there were 124 cases, of whom 46 were Government officials.

62. *Connaught Hospital, Freetown.*—The accommodation afforded by the new surgical ward of 52 beds has been taxed to the full. The surgical specialist work continues to increase; 1,566 operations were performed in 1930 as compared with 761 in 1929, an increase of 805 or more than 100 per cent.

The maternity section though well maintained nevertheless shows a reduction in the number of admittances, due no doubt to the absence on leave of the Medical Officer normally in charge of this important branch.

The attendances at the out-patient department are approximately the same as in 1929, though the number of subsequent attendances shows a slight reduction.

	New cases.	*Subsequent attendances.*
1928	13,864	47,040
1929	14,265	59,441
1930	14,276	55,998
Venereal Diseases Clinic :		
1929	596	1,209
1930	484	1,228

63. *Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe.*—The year 1930 showed a slight falling off in the number of cases treated at this hospital. 412 cases were admitted in 1930 as compared with 439 in 1929.

The comparative figures for out-patients are as follows :—

	New cases.	*Subsequent attendances.*
1929	3,965	16,817
1930	2,765	14,202

64. *Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Central Province.*—It is gratifying to record the appreciation shown for this hospital which has now completed its third year, as evidenced by an all-round increase in the numbers attending.

	In-Patients.	*Out-Patients.*	
		New cases.	*Subsequent attendances.*
1929	141	3,387	4,197
1930	226	5,086	6,491

Owing to the increase of work at this hospital it has been found necessary to augment the staff by the addition of one male nurse.

65. *Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province.*—Whilst the in-patients show a slight increase, the number of new out-patient cases have slightly decreased; the subsequent attendances show a marked increase.

	In-Patients.	*Out-Patients.*	
		New cases.	*Subsequent attendances.*
1929	152	3,981	11,817
1930	178	3,751	20,115

66. *Mission Hospitals.*—There are now three Mission Hospitals. Two of these, situated at Kamabai and Jaiama (Kono), are serviced by American doctors and registered nurses. The third hospital at Segbwema was opened this year by the Wesleyan Methodist Mission and has already justified its existence. The natives continue to seek relief at these hospitals in increasing numbers.

67. *Mental Hospital, Kissy.*—Designed and constructed according to modern practice, the new dispensary with dispensers' quarters

commenced in 1929 was completed this year. The modern equipment installed makes this dispensary a very efficient unit.

	Male.	*Female.*	*Total.*
Remaining on 31st December, 1929	66	45	111
Admitted (on temporary certificate)	45	19	64
Admitted (on certified certificate)	—	1	1
Number subsequently certified	18	7	25
Discharged after observation	27	11	38
Discharged as cured	1	—	1
Discharged on trial by Governor's Order ...	2	—	2
Deaths	19	8	27
Absconded	1	—	1
Remaining on 31st December, 1930	59	39	98

68. *Kissy Infirmaries.*—The capacity of these institutions is taxed to its utmost, the Male Infirmary being particularly popular with the natives of the Protectorate who come down in large numbers. In order to effect better isolation of the lepers and to improve accommodation a new ward and kitchen of native construction have been erected at the Male infirmary.

	Male.	*Female.*
Remaining on 31st December, 1929 ...	48	31
Admission in 1930	68	56
Discharged	37	36
Deaths	32	22
Remaining on 31st December, 1930 ...	47	29

Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality.

69. The following table gives the figures for the year :—

	Population, 1921 Census.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*	*Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.*
Freetown	44,142	22·04	27·16	336·64
Colony (other than Freetown).	41,021	17·5	18·6	249·36

The duties of registration of births and deaths were taken over from the Registrar-General by the Health Department in July. Steps are being taken to introduce the machinery necessary to enforce the provisions of the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Ordinance, 1929. Until this is done, the figures for birth-rate and infant mortality cannot be regarded as affording even a rough estimate of the existing conditions.

A census will be taken in 1931 and, with the more efficient administration and machinery of registration, it is hoped that figures more truly indicative of the state of the health of the Colony and Protectorate will be available.

Sanitation.

70. The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Owing to the existence of yellow fever or plague in several West African Colonies, both to the north and south of Sierra Leone, port health work continued to be heavy. Practically all ships arriving in Freetown harbour were visited by the Medical Officer of Health. Passengers arriving from infected ports were kept under strict surveillance and, where necessary, their baggage was disinfected.

Both Colony and Protectorate remained free from epidemic and disease, other than an outbreak of cattle plague in the Protectorate in July.

Pneumonia and bronchitis have an appreciable effect on the death-rate, especially in the early months of the year when the dry north-east wind (Harmattan) prevails.

Record of vaccinations performed :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*
Number vaccinated ...	13,953	10,909	6,369
Number successful	8,417	7,041	3,828
Number unsuccessful ...	2,609	1,730	1,986
Number not inspected ...	2,927	2,138	555

Climate.

71. The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. There are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east " Trades " and the resultant wind, known as the " Harmattan ", blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and it is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

July, August, and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall. The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland. Rainfall records, taken in Freetown (Tower Hill) 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 48 years indicate a decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands. From 1882 to 1891 the average was 166.07, while from 1912 to 1921 it was 122.66, but the average of the last years is considerably above the latter figure.

The highest rainfall recorded was 204.19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102.34 inches in 1914.

The rainfall in Freetown in 1930 was 114.5 inches. The highest rainfall recorded in any one day during the year was 12.25 inches on the 15th July. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 67 degrees on the 22nd June and 19th July; the highest, 95 degrees, on the 11th February.

IX.—EDUCATION.

72. An Education Ordinance passed in 1929 provides a complete Code for all Colony and Protectorate schools. Separate Schedules of Rules, which apply to the Colony and Protectorate respectively, differ in the important means of providing grants-in-aid.

In the Colony the schools are conducted by Boards of Managers as a result of the amalgamation of the Mission Primary Schools. The Managers are responsible for the upkeep of the school buildings, but the Government pays the salaries of the teachers and provides equipment in the primary schools.

The secondary schools on the assisted list in the Colony receive capitation and equipment grants-in-aid. Grants are also paid to qualified teachers.

In the Protectorate, the assisted schools receive a capitation and equipment grant, but the salaries of the teachers are paid by the Mission Authorities. Additional grants to qualified teachers in the Protectorate are paid by Government.

73. In the Colony there are at present 49 assisted primary schools with 6,901 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 4,842.

The secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows :—

Boys.—6 schools with 187 primary, 317 preparatory, and 219 secondary pupils.

Girls.—5 schools with 428 primary, 87 preparatory, and 126 secondary pupils.

74. Included in the boys' secondary schools is the Prince of Wales School, established and maintained entirely by Government. This school makes special provision for the teaching of science and for technical instruction, and is liberally equipped with laboratories and workshops.

There are also three assisted schools in the Colony providing technical training. The Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), the Technical School (carpentry, surveying, and building construction) and the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry and cabinet making).

75. With regard to the education of girls, domestic science forms an important part of their curriculum. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught Hospital and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

Scholarships tenable at the Women Teachers' Training College at Wilberforce are awarded to girls from the secondary schools. The College is residential and is financed and largely controlled by Government.

76. Higher education for boys is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University. Arts, theological, and science courses are provided for.

A separate course for the training of men teachers is also provided at the Fourah Bay College. Residential scholarships are awarded annually by Government, which also finances the scheme for teacher training.

77. A Lady Medical Officer of the Government visits all schools and conducts clinics for children needing medical attention.

78. In the Protectorate, 11 Missionary Authorities conduct 88 assisted schools with 4,254 boys and 1,374 girls on the rolls. In addition these bodies conduct 82 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 2,228 pupils.

79. The Government controls 11 boys' schools in the Protectorate with 494 pupils. These with the exception of the Bo School and the Protectorate Central School at Koyeima are rural schools of junior primary grades.

80. Bo School (established by Government in 1906 for the education of the sons and nominees of Chiefs) continued to serve a useful purpose. Hygiene and sanitation, town planning, building, and hand and eye training were as before important parts of the curriculum.

81. The Central Protectorate School at Koyeima was opened at the beginning of 1930, its object being to provide education for Protectorate youths beyond that given in the primary schools. It was designed also as the centre of the training of Protectorate

teachers and for technical training. During 1930, however, for various reasons it was found necessary to close the school with a view to re-organization on somewhat modified lines. A scheme for this purpose was drawn up and approved, with the concurrence of the Board of Education, before the end of the year.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Topographical Survey of the Protectorate.

82. All field work in connection with the topographical survey was completed before the end of June and the four seconded military officers who were employed on the work have left the Colony. Thirty-two out of the 109 sheets have been published, a further 12 sheets being now in the hands of the reproduction branch at Accra.

83. The map, which is on the scale 1/62,500 with contours at 50 feet vertical interval, has as a horizontal basis an astronomical and wireless framework of 123 points, these being supplemented by 21 observations for latitude only. The main vertical framework consists of some 1,670 miles of levels.

84. The cost of survey per square mile, inclusive of framework and all overhead charges, can be placed at £2 10s. 0d. This figure includes reproduction and the supply of 300 copies of each sheet.

85. The survey, which covers an area of some 27,500 square miles, took four years and nine months to complete. Of the African staff serving with the survey at the time of its completion, 87 per cent. were trained locally during the progress of the work.

Demarcation of Anglo-Liberian Boundary.

86. The inadequate marking of the Anglo-Liberian Meridional Boundary, which lies between the Mauwa and Moro rivers, had for more than a quarter of a century been a source of difficulty to the Administration. The methodical demarcation of the boundary was therefore deemed desirable and was carried out during the period April-August. A line 15 feet in breadth has been cut through this hilly and forest-clad region and 69 permanent beacons of iron and concrete have been erected. The line is some 19 miles in length.

Cadastral Branch.

87. Good progress was made with the breaking down of the main Colony triangulation. The western coastal region has been completed and work has been commenced on the eastern coastal region. It is unfortunate that the services of the European officer appointed for this work had to be dispensed with owing to the financial position.

88. Sixteen mining surveys were carried out during the year, the revenue derived therefrom being £1,610.

89. In addition to work on the Cadastral Sheets, a number of surveys in connection with lands matters were executed, also three surveys of forest reservations.

90. A road map of Freetown on the scale of 1/6,250 has been produced and is on sale to the public at 4s. per copy.

Lands Branch.

91. All the usual work in connection with lands, e.g., acquisitions, grants, valuations, leases, collection of rents, preparation of agreements, etc., has been carried out, but calls for no special comment in a brief report.

92. Action to ascertain ownership of land under the Unoccupied Lands Ordinance was taken in respect of areas at Waterloo, Kissy, and Newton.

Geological Department.

93. During 1930 the Department actively continued the investigation of the geology and mineral resources of Sierra Leone.

Reconnaissances were made in all three Provinces, and the schist belts forming the Kambui and Nimini Hills and the Sula and Kagnari Mountains, and the Gabbro Hills of the Colony were examined in greater detail than had been done previously.

During the wet season the field officers were engaged in research work at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. A large number of rocks were sliced and microscopically examined, and several mineral samples and a few of the more typical rocks were analysed. A number of concentrates from stream gravels were also specially examined. A representative collection of economic minerals from Sierra Leone was prepared for exhibit at the Empire Minerals Exhibition held at the Imperial Institute early in 1931.

The Department suffered a great loss on the transfer last October of Major Junner to take up his appointment as Director of the Gold Coast Geological Survey.

94. The Mines Section of the Department was kept busy during the year, and a separate report on mining will be found in another section.

95. A more detailed examination was made of the rocks forming the hills in the neighbourhood of the platinum deposits near York and Toke, and it is hoped that in the near future it will be found possible to publish a geological map and short report on this area.

96. Early in the year another chromite deposit was discovered at Wokaw, near Lago, and more recent work by the African and Eastern Trade Corporation Limited has shown that this is a continuation of the main outcrop near Lago discovered by the Department last year.

97. A promising occurrence of alluvial gold was discovered in the vicinity of the Nimini Hills (near Titambaia in Kono District). The associated rocks, amphibolites, quartzites, banded ironstones, and tourmaline and muscovite pegmatites, are very similar to those of the gold and iron occurrences of the Sula Mountains. Near Fotingaia two small diamonds were found in the Bobora stream, which drains the same area, but sufficient work has not yet been done to ascertain whether the discovery is of economic interest.

98. Intensive field work in the Tonkolili area in Koinadugu District has proved large extensions to the deposits of iron ore which were discovered last year. The physical condition of the ore is good and assays show that the ore is of high grade and free from objectionable impurities. Eight assays of samples taken from different parts of the deposit show an average of 62.9 per cent. iron, 2.22 per cent. alumia, 1.02 per cent. silica, 0.05 per cent. phosphorus, 0.37 per cent. manganous oxide, 0.05 per cent. sulphur, and 0.18 per cent. titanium oxide. This deposit undoubtedly forms the largest known reserve of iron ore in British West Africa.

XI.—LABOUR.

99. Unskilled labour in the Colony and Protectorate is readily available, the wages paid averaging about 1s. per diem. The demand for skilled labour, varying in accordance with prevailing trade conditions, is met by artisans trained by various Government departments and missions.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

100. Thirty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1930. Three of these dealt with matters on which there was little or no legislation :—

(i) *The Legal Documents (Restriction on Preparation) Ordinance* (*No.* 15) which was enacted to prevent the preparation and registration by unqualified persons of documents under seal relating to real or personal estate or any proceeding at law.

(ii) *The Ports and Inland Waters Ordinance* (*No.* 21) which repeals the Freetown Harbour Ordinance, 1924, and provides generally for the regulation and the prevention of misuse or obstruction of such harbours and waterways throughout the Colony and Protectorate as it may be applied to. It also protects from damage lighthouses, buoys, and beacons.

(iii) *The Revised Edition of the Laws (Supplement) Ordinance* (*No.* 31) which makes provision for the preparation of a new edition of all laws passed subsequently to the enactment of the revised edition of 1924.

Two Ordinances dealt with supply, and one altered the appropriation of money raised under the Domestic Loans Ordinance, 1927.

The remaining twenty-eight were amending Ordinances.

The Ordinances Authentication Ordinance (*No.* 2) makes better provision for the authentication and recording of Ordinances than was afforded by the section it repeals of the General Registration Ordinance, 1924.

The Immigration Protection Ordinance (*No.* 11) consolidates and stiffens the provisions of the European and Asiatic Passengers Ordinance, 1924, the Immigrant Paupers Ordinance, 1924, the Passport Ordinance, 1924, and the Undesirable Persons (Prevention of Immigration) Ordinance, 1924, which are thereby repealed.

The Intestate Estates (Amendment) Ordinance (*No.* 16) extends the provisions of the principal Ordinance for the first time to non-natives dying in the Protectorate.

The amendments effected by the other Ordinances are of a minor character.

Sixty-seven acts of subordinate legislation were promulgated.

Banks.

101. There are two banks—the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas), Limited—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

102. The deposits numbered 12,829 of the value of £29,326 13s. 11d. as compared with 12,353, value £28,233 16s. 2d., in 1929.

Withdrawals totalled 9,167 and amounted to £30,984 0s. 4d. as against 8,359, value £31,062 11s. 10d., in the previous year.

The average value of each deposit was £2 5s. 9d. and of each withdrawal £3 7s. 7d. as compared with £2 5s. 9d. and £3 14s. 3d., respectively in 1929.

103. During the year 2,111 accounts were opened and 1,606 closed; the corresponding figures for 1929 were 2,056 and 1,521.

At the end of the year, there were 8,005 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit was £62,796 16s. 4½d., an increase of 506 accounts and a decrease in value of £245 2s. 1d.

The average value of each account was £7 16s. 11d. as against £8 8s. 2d.

The total sum invested was £61,601 15s. 0d. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,388 9s. 0d., and the interest capitalized and credited to depositors was £1,409 18s. 6d.

XIII.—IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Plant and Animal Products.

104. During 1930 the following enquiries were carried out for Sierra Leone.

Raffia.—Representative samples of first-grade Madagascar raffia were supplied to the Director of Agriculture in order to indicate the quality of the product required in the United Kingdom and the method of tying the hanks; general observations as to methods of preparation were also furnished.

A company interested in supplies of raffia was informed as to the steps being taken in the Colony to obtain good quality raffia, and was advised to consult the Director of Agriculture on the question.

105. *Groundnuts and Soy beans.*—At the request of the Department of Agriculture, information was furnished regarding the present conditions of the trade in soy beans in Manchuria and groundnuts in India, based on the results of enquiries made of the Trade Commissioner for India, the Department of Overseas Trade, and in the London market.

106. *Palm kernels.*—In connection with the consideration of conditions affecting the market for palm kernels, the Acting Director of Agriculture was furnished with statistics relating to trade in oilseeds and oils from producing countries, together with information as to the position of the vegetable oil trade generally.

107. *Palm oil.*—Information was furnished to a company operating in the Colony regarding the suitability of Sierra Leone palm oil for use in engines designed for using crude and low-grade fuel oils.

108. *" Condy " seeds* (*Carapa procera*).—A sample of " condy " seeds from Sierra Leone, submitted to the Imperial Institute for botanical identification and information as to their commercial value, was identified as *Carapa procera*. A note was furnished regarding the possible commercial uses of the oil from these seeds.

109. *Bananas*.—In connection with an enquiry regarding the banana industry, information was supplied to the Director of Agriculture with reference to the use of brown paper bags (" banana jackets ") for the export of Canary bananas from Brazil, together with the names of firms able to supply such bags, if required, for use in Sierra Leone.

Other enquiries dealt with during the year had reference to the production and export of ginger; the botanical and commercial relationships of Stenophylla and Canephora coffees; piassava; drugs and poisonous plants; and supplies of *Lophira procera* timber.

Mineral Resources.

110. During the year 1930 the following investigations were carried out for Sierra Leone.

Chromite.—Three samples of chromite, from the Chief Inspector of Mines, proved to be a rather low grade, containing from 31 to 34 per cent. of chromic oxide only.

111. *Iron ores*.—Five samples of iron ore sent by the Geological Survey Department were all found to be of good quality, containing from 85 to 94 per cent. of ferric oxide. They were similar in composition to certain iron ores occurring in other localities in the Protectorate.

112. *Corundum and Supposed Emery*.—A sample of corundum, received from the Geological Survey Department, was similar to material from Sierra Leone previously examined at the Imperial Institute, and valued by a commercial firm at £14 per ton. Another sample of corundum was valued at £13 10s. per ton. The firm interested was put in touch with the Director of the Sierra Leone Geological Survey, by whom the samples were sent. A sample of supposed emery consisted essentially of a spinel rock, and was of no commercial value.

113. *Royalty on Platiniferous Ilmenite*.—In order to advise the Government on the question of the rate of royalty on platiniferous ilmenite now being mined in Sierra Leone, the Mines Section, Freetown, wished to have information relating to the taxation, if any, of such ilmenite elsewhere. They were informed that *platiniferous* ilmenite did not appear to have been produced elsewhere, and hence no examples of royalties could be given. Details regarding royalties on ordinary ilmenite in force in Brazil, India, and Senegal were obtained and forwarded.

114. *Refining of Crude Gold.*—In connection with a proposal to export the crude gold produced to an approved refinery with a view to the royalty due to the Government being collected therefrom, the Geological Department asked for and were supplied with the names of gold refiners who might be put upon the approved list.

115. *Royalty on Chromite.*—In connection with the question of the amount of royalty which should be charged on chromite produced in Sierra Leone, the Chief Inspector of Mines was supplied with details of the amounts and methods of fixing the royalties on this mineral in a number of countries.

116. *Mining and Metallurgical Statistics.*—The Geological Survey asked for and were supplied with copies of the Reports prepared by the late Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau and the Imperial Institute on the subject of a proposed unified method for recording mining and metallurgical statistics. It was suggested that the League of Nations publications in which these had been incorporated would be of service to the enquirers.

117. *Iron Ore.*—An enquirer wished to have information concerning the recently discovered deposits of iron ore in Sierra Leone and was supplied with reports dealing with the composition of the ore and recent development in regard to its export.

Publications.

118. Special reports on the research work on minerals carried out in Sierra Leone, supplied by the Director of the Geological Department, appeared in No. 2 of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute.

Public Exhibition Galleries. Sierra Leone Court.

119. The new panorama of the ginger industry, funds for which have been kindly donated by Messrs. Paterson Zochonis, has now been completed and installed in the Court. The Court now contains three panoramas, the other two being Freetown Harbour and the piassava fibre industry.

Samples of Sierra Leone products have been lent for exhibitions in the Provinces, and duplicate specimens of products have been sent to schools for use in school museums.

Lectures to organized parties from schools have been continued during the year, and a special lecture on Sierra Leone by Mr. Percy Clemens, late of the Sierra Leone Government Service, was given in the Cinema Hall on the 26th May.

The public attendance in the galleries during the year was 608,886, an increase of over 200,000 as compared with the previous year.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, MILLBANK, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1, AND FROM THE GOVERNMENT STATIONERY STORE, FREETOWN.

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Sierra Leone Royal Gazette, per issue	0	0	6	——	
Sierra Leone Royal Gazette, subscription inland ...	1	5	0	——	
Sierra Leone Royal Gazette, subscription overseas ...	1	10	0	——	
Trade Supplement to Royal Gazette	0	0	3	0	1
Revised Laws, Vols. I, II and III, half pigskin ...	7	7	0	*3	3†
Revised Laws, Vols. I, II and III, buckram	6	6	0	*3	3†
Revised Laws, separate Vols., half pigskin, each ...	2	9	0	*1	3§
Revised Laws, separate Vols., buckram, each ...	2	2	0	*1	3§
Revised Laws, Protectorate Vols.	1	10	0	*1	3‡
Revised Laws, Customs and Trade Vol.	1	0	0	0	8
Law Reports	1	0	0	0	5
Rules of Supreme Court, cloth	0	3	10	0	6
Rules of Supreme Court, half calf	0	5	4	0	7
Rules relating to Motor Traffic in Sierra Leone ...	0	0	6	0	1
Ordinances, etc., 1*d.* a leaf, but not less than, per copy	0	0	4	0	1
Ordinances, bound volume, 1929	0	8	6	0	5
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928, each	0	12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929	0	12	6	1	2
Customs Trade Report, 1929	0	5	0	0	5
Customs Tariff Ordinance (revised up to May 1st, 1930)	0	0	8	0	1
Customs Tariff Ordinance, Harbour Dues, Customs Fees, etc.	0	1	0	0	2
Regulations for His Majesty's Colonial Services ...	0	1	0	0	3
Governor's Address on the Estimates for 1930 ...	0	1	0	0	1
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year ...	0	1	6	0	2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent Numbers, each	0	0	6	0	2
The Handbook of Sierra Leone	0	10	6	0	8
Sierra Leone Studies (Abridged Edition) of Nos. 1, 2 and 3	0	1	0	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies No. 6	0	0	6	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies Nos. 7 to 16, each	0	1	0	0	2
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon	0	1	0	0	1½
Handbook of the Mende Language	*out of print*				
Handbook of the Temne Language	0	5	0	0	3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	0	10	6	0	3
Mende Language, by F. W. H. Migeod	0	9	0	0	6
Report of Temne Speaking Peoples, Parts I to III, by Northcote W. Thomas, each	0	4	0	0	5
Specimen of Languages, by Northcote W. Thomas ...	0	4	0	0	3
Handbook on the Tsetse Fly (Austen)	0	5	0	0	6
Sir Charles O'Brien's Report on Freetown Municipality	0	1	0	0	1
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by H. C. Luke, C.M.G.	0	8	6	0	4
Report on the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone ...	0	1	6	0	2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone, by H. Michell	0	1	4	0	2
Beriberi and the Freetown Prison	0	10	6	——	
The Birds of Tropical West Africa by D. A. Bannerman	1	2	6	*1	2

* Inland Parcel Post.

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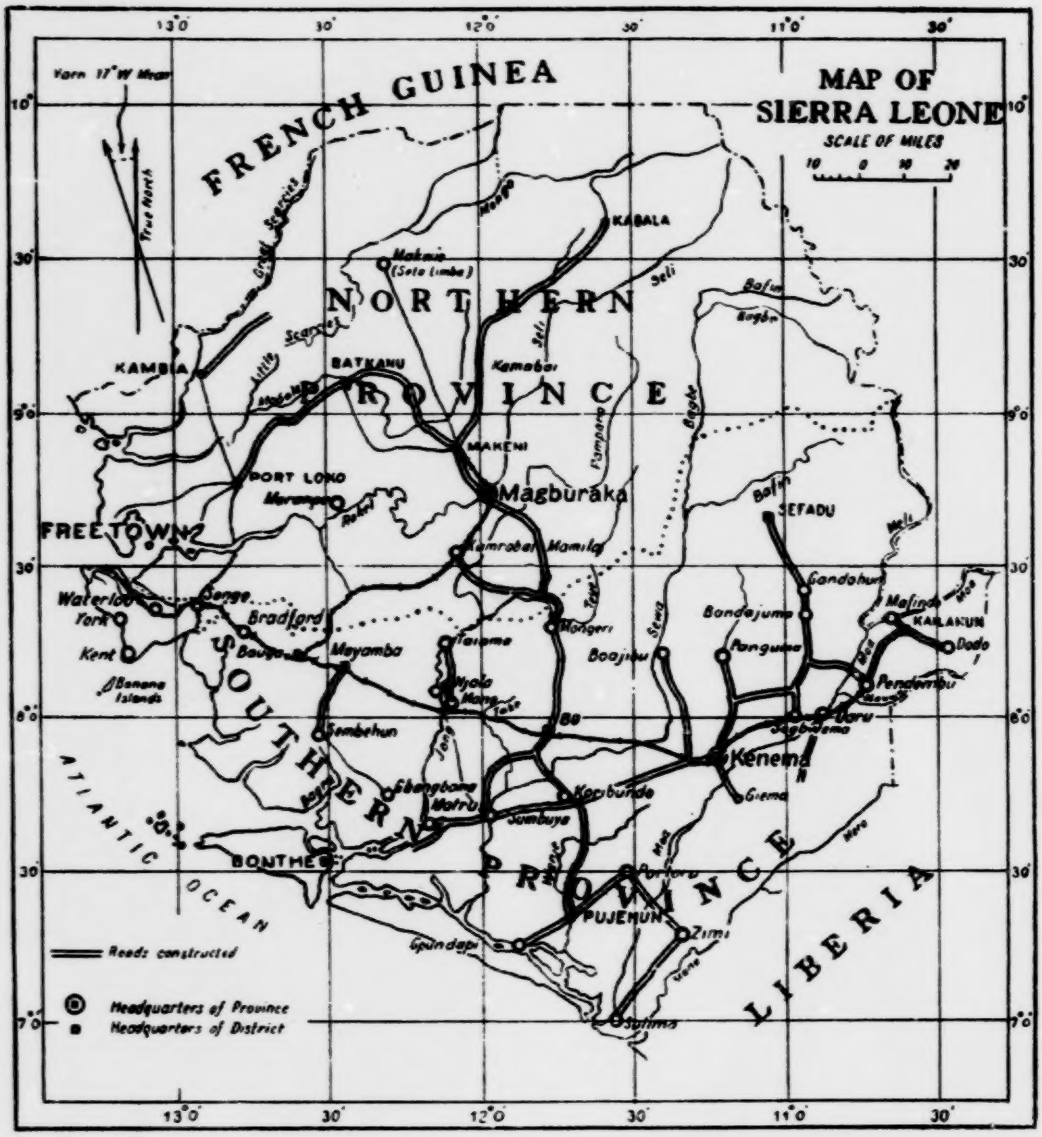
MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
Varn. 17° W Mean
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
KAMBIA
KABALA
Makain (Sela Limba)
BATKANU
Kamabai
MAKENI
PORT LOKO
Marampa
Magburaka
FREETOWN
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
Moyamba
Mamila
Taiama
Njala
Mano
Mongeri
Bo
Sembehun
Gbangbama
Matru
Sumbuya
Koribundo
BONTHE
Gbundapi
PUJEHUN
Sulima
Zimi
SEFADU
Gandohun
Bandajuma
Panguma
Boajibu
Kenema
Giema
Segbwema
Daru
Pendembu
Mafindo
KAILAHUN
Dodo
Great Scarcies
Little Scarcies
Rokel
Seli
Mabole
Pampana
Bagbe
Bafin
Sewa
Moa
Mano
Jong
Wanje
Taia
Mongo
Roads constructed
Headquarters of Province
Headquarters of District
13°0' 30' 12°0' 30' 11°0' 30'
10° 30' 9°0' 30' 8°0' 30' 7°0'

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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637.	6*d.* (7*d.*).
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SIERRA LEONE, 1931

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(For Report for 1929 see No. 1476 (Price 1s. 6d.) and for Report for 1930 see No. 1532 (Price 1s. 6d))

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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe in Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 260 square miles.

2. Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorage close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

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3. The Protectorate (27,665 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, though none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

4. If we except the mountainous peninsula, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be generally described as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered: but this gives place as one travels northward to more open or " orchard bush " country.

Climate.

5. The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced toward the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly " Harmattan " wind usually blows at intervals during the December-February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed to carry down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

6. The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average maximum and minimum may be placed at 87° and 74°, respectively.

7. The average rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. July and August are as a rule the wettest months. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level.

History.

8. Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in

May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were transported to Sierra Leone and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the "Liberated Africans" who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

9. For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

10. On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

11. Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necesary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding Chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with a view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

12. From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but, owing to reports as to connivance with slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually, a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

13. In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement; and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative Districts.

14. The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful, apart from some minor disturbances caused by the fanatic Mohammedan missionary, Idara, early in 1931.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

15. The dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

16. The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments :—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

17. So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

18. The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

19. The Executive Council ordinarily consists of four members, namely the officers performing for the time being the duties of Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, and Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

20. The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioners of the Northern and Southern

Provinces, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District.

21. Unofficial members hold their seats for five years and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be reappointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

22. There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

23. The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

24. It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

25. For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though, as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into two hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

26. The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was receded to the Chiefs and people.

Colony.

27. For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

28. The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is comprised within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown,
(2) The Headquarters Judicial District,
(3) The Bonthe District.

29. *Police District of Freetown.*—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

30. This District which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

31. *Freetown Municipality.*—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Rulers in Freetown and one on Tasso Island have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes which they represent who reside in the capital.

32. *Headquarters Judicial District.*—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

33. The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioners of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

34. For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

35. *Tribal Rulers.*—Five native tribes in Waterloo possess Tribal Rulers, with powers similar to those in Freetown.

36. *Bonthe District.*—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island and the Turtle Islands and of York Island and of the four following chiefdoms on the mainland—viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner, who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

37. The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar tc that employed in the Headquarters District of the Colony. The District Commissioner is assisted by three Tribal Rulers.

38. Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

39. Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

40. *Parts of Colony treated as Protectorate.*—These parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast-line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

41. Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate, this is the Bacca Lokko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

Protectorate.

42. The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

43. Until 1920 it was, for political purposes, divided into five Districts—viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Ronietta, Panguma, and Bandajuma. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three Provinces, designated respectively: the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

44. By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely, the Northern and Southern Provinces, and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of those two Provinces;
(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and
(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

45. Each District is subdivided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

46. The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable

area of Tambakka Yobanji in the Karene District to the smallness of Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e., from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

47. Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially, length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and disinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any "palaver" which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of the Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

48. The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

49. The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

50. *Functions of Political Officers.*—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

51. In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

52. A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax,

and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirits, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of a Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and sea-boards; he controls the management of the gaol; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

53. The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

54. *Colony.*—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 is 96,422, the racial distribution being as follows:—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes ...	**36,914**	**24,869**	**61,783**	**64·08**
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans.	**14,438**	**18,408**	**32,846**	**34·06**
Other African non-natives ...	**583**	**346**	**929**	**0·96**
Asiatics	**309**	**135**	**444**	**0·46**
Europeans	**308**	**112**	**420**	**0·44**
Totals	**52,552**	**43,870**	**96,422**	**100·00**

55. *Protectorate.*—The total population of the Protectorate is 1,672,057, of which 796,391 are males and 875,666 are females, and consists of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics, and Europeans.

56. The total European population of the Protectorate is 231, of which 173 are males and 58 are females. Of this total 142 are British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which are included 34 Americans.

57. The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate is 772—577 males and 195 females. These include 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

58. African non-natives in the Protectorate number 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These include Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans number 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

59. The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro ...	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	608	5,219	5,827	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	100·00

60. *Geographical Distribution.*—The main geographical distribution of the African population is as follows :—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population				1,766,613

Migration.

61. Unfortunately complete records of immigration and emigration are not available. Registration merely of persons entering and leaving the Colony by sea is kept but no check whatsoever is kept of persons travelling to and from the Protectorate.

62. Of the immigrant population, Syrians are the most important element and now form a considerable community. They come solely for the purposes of trade. During 1931 the registers show that 99 Syrians entered the Colony by sea, and 66 departures are recorded.

63. The European population consists of Government officials, traders, mercantile agents, mining company employees and missionaries coming and going frequently between the Colony, Protectorate, and Europe.

64. With reference to the African population there is a constant flow between the Colony and Protectorate and various African colonies. The only reliable figures for migration are those relating to the Syrians.

Births and Deaths.

65. The figures for births and deaths for the Colony for 1931 are as follows :—

(*a*) **Births**—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
1,062	1,039	2,101	21·78

(*b*) **Deaths**—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
1,312	993	2,305	23·9

No figures for births and deaths are available for the Protectorate, registration not being compulsory.

66. *Infant Mortality.*—The following are the figures for infant mortality for the Colony for 1931.

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000 births.*
302	254	556	264·6

No figures for infant mortality are available for the Protectorate for the same reason as given in the previous paragraph.

67. *Comparison with last Census.*—As regards the Colony it will be seen that the figures for deaths in 1931 (which may be taken as an average) largely exceed those for births, but it is probable that the births are understated owing to the fact that many births still escape registration. The figures for deaths, however, are fairly reliable. It is a much simpler matter to evade registration of births

than of deaths. The recent census revealed an increase of 11,378 which is probably for the most part due to immigration.

68. As regards the Protectorate an increase of 216,548 is shown over the last census figures. It is not possible, however, to say whether this was a natural increase since the method of taking both the 1921 and 1931 censuses was by estimate. Enquiries however were made regarding numbers for family and fertility rates and the indications are that the Protectorate population is at least above static.

Marriages.

69. As regards the Colony, only Christian marriages and Mohammedan regular marriages solemnized in the various Mosques are registered. No registration of native marriages is kept. Of the Christian marriages the greater number are those relating to non-natives and to a less extent of the Mohammedan marriages.

70. Marriage rates are not given as they bear no relation to the conjugal state of the total population or the birth-rate and cannot be given with any accuracy for even the non-native portion of it.

71. The number of marriages as shown by the registers for 1931 are :—

	Freetown.	*Village areas (Colony).*	*Headquarters District (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Total.*
Christian ...	143	39	12	4	198
Mohammedan ...	31	—	—	—	31
Totals ...	174	39	12	4	229

72. Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate, of which 27 were recorded as having taken place in 1931. Mohammedan marriages and those by " Native Custom " are not registered.

Occupations.

73. Of the total population of 96,422 persons in the Colony, only 60,954, or 63.2 per cent are returned as having occupations. This number has been returned as following some stated occupation or in the habit of following that occupation, but it can only be assumed and not definitely stated that they are earners or gainfully occupied ; the remainder, 35,468, are returned as " no occupation ", " dependants ", " attending school ", " other children ", and " pensioners ". Of the total occupied persons 61.1 per cent are males and 38.9 per cent females. Of the total male population 70.9 per cent are occupied and of the females 54.1 per cent.

74. The following table shows the classes of occupation (percentages only) in 1931, by comparison with 1921 :—

Occupation.	1921 *Percentage.*	1931 *Percentage.*
Agriculture	15.1	13.1
Fishing		2.1
Commerce and banking (including petty trade)	43.1	21.1
Professions (including teaching and religious occupations)		0.8
Administrative and defence (including soldiers)		1.7
Skilled trades and occupations ...		7.0
Miscellaneous		2.5
Labourers and servants	9.1	7.2
No occupation, children, dependants, etc.	32.7	34.5

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

75. The table appended shows the cases of disease treated in all the Government institutions, hospitals, and dispensaries, in the Colony and Protectorate. Yaws is widely prevalent all over the territory, but the large predominance in the numbers of this disease shown in the table is due to the great popularity and marked success of the treatment.

76. Malaria is prevalent, but large numbers of those affected do not seek treatment unless the attack is severe.

77. Pulmonary complaints bulk largely in the returns. These are particularly prevalent in the commencement of the rainy season, and the people are very susceptible to pneumonia at this time.

78. Venereal diseases are common, but do not show in the returns in the proportions to be expected, as the people do not regard the disease, particularly gonorrhoea, as important, and only attend for treatment when seriously distressed.

79. No incidence of disease can be ascribed to occupation. The chief industry is agriculture and there are no factories or large numbers grouped in indoor occupations. Mining is in its infancy in Sierra Leone, and no statistics are available yet to show that any disease can be attributed to that form of labour.

80. The following table shows the main illnesses for the treatment of which patients applied at the various hospitals and dispensaries during the years 1930 and 1931 :—

Disease.	1930.	1931.
Malaria	6,101	6,520
Yaws	14,082	7,449
Acute rheumatism	845	502
Chronic rheumatism	4,327	5,081
Hemiplegia	164	123
Conjunctivitis	706	949
Affections of the ear	912	860
Haemorrhoids	113	121
Lymphadenitis, bubo (non-specific) ...	668	485
Coryza	1,082	884
Acute bronchitis	5,239	4,186
Chronic bronchitis	3,694	4,213
Asthma	106	143
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,665	4,169
Gastritis	348	394
Dyspepsia	3,812	3,495
Diarrhoea and enteritis	925	960
Ankylostomiasis	158	84
Hernia	612	479
Constipation	6,592	9,253
Acute nephritis	62	95
Schistosomiasis	97	17
Epididymitis	47	40
Orchitis	362	209
Hydrocele	230	210
Abscess	878	512
Scabies	1,545	761
Eczema	360	428
Osteitis	381	331
Arthritis	1,190	1,437
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,312	1,054
Fracture	156	149
Other external injuries	6,347	4,397
Asthenia	655	838

Mortality.

81. The statistics as to mortality and the principal causes thereof are not very reliable, as registration of death, while compulsory in the Colony, is not necessarily by medical certificate, but frequently by notification by a relative. The cause of death is then assumed on a description of the symptoms, or, in suspicious cases by a post-mortem examination. The question of legislation to make

registration by medical certificate or post-mortem examination compulsory is under consideration. Appended is a table showing the principal causes of death as registered. In this it will be seen that the most prominent place is taken by pulmonary affections and the second by malaria. The latter, however, most certainly includes cases of pyrexia of unknown origin. Infantile mortality is high but accurate statistics are not possible, as registration of births is not fully effective. The causes of infant deaths are largely due to malnutrition and maternal ignorance aggravating diseases which would not otherwise have proved fatal.

82. The principal causes of deaths were :—

Causes.	*Freetown (including Clinetown)* 1,380.		*Colony (excluding Freetown)* 925.		**Protectorate* 452.	
	No.	*Percentage.*	*No.*	*Percentage.*	*No.*	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and pneumonia	351	25·43	66	7·13	65	14·38
Malaria	244	17·68	115	12·21	25	5·53
Heart disease	108	7·82	42	4·54	25	5·53
Senility	98	7·1	50	5·40	25	5·53
Dysentery, diarrhoea, and enteritis.	81	5·86	80	8·64	64	14·38
Debility	74	5·36	36	3·89	24	5·30
Premature birth ...	66	4·78	6	0·64	9	1·99
Infantile convulsions ...	53	3·84	39	4·21	21	4·64
Strangulated hernia ...	31	2·24	12	1·29	12	2·65
Tuberculosis, all forms...	26	1·89	28	3·02	9	1·99
Abdominal disease ...	24	1·73	50	5·40	20	4·42
Nephritis	24	1·73	27	2·91	14	3·09
Tetanus	24	1·73	4	0·43	4	0·88

* Death registration is compulsory only for non-natives of the Protectorate.

Provision for Treatment.

83. *Colony.*—There are two general hospitals maintained by Government in the Colony, the Connaught Hospital at Freetown and the Colonial Hospital at Bonthe. There is also a hospital maintained by the Church Missionary Society in Freetown.

The figures of attendance at the Connaught and Bonthe Hospitals are as follows :—

Connaught Hospital.—	
In-patients	2,246
Out-patients—new cases	10,583
Subsequent attendances	50,059
Operations	1,410
Bonthe Hospital.—	
In-patients	359
Out-patients—new cases	2,078
Subsequent attendances	17,901

84. *Protectorate.*—There are three permanent hospitals in the Protectorate at Daru, Bo, and Makeni, the last two being type hospitals which are to be extended to other towns as it becomes possible financially. There are in addition four hospitals of native construction and three conducted by Medical Missions. These are subsidized by Government and employ qualified medical men and nurses.

85. The figures of attendance at the two type hospitals are as follows :—

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Southern Province.—

In-patients	105
Out-patients—new cases	2,035
Subsequent attendances	12,136

Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province.—

In-patients	213
Out-patients—new cases	2,900
Subsequent attendances	13,829

86. *Dispensaries.*—These are situated in the Colony villages and in towns in the Protectorate not served by Medical Officers. They are conducted by dispensers who are trained as both druggists and nurses, and are visited regularly by the Medical Officer of the District. There are eight such dispensaries in the Colony, and eleven in the Protectorate.

87. *Nurses and Midwives.*—Male and female nurses are trained at the Connaught Hospital, where a full course of lectures and practical training takes three years, with an examination at the end of each year. After training they are sent to the other hospitals and institutions. Midwives are trained at the Connaught Hospital maternity section and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital. An examination is conducted annually, with a high standard required for a pass, which entitles to registration as a midwife. Several of these are now in private practice, and are being increasingly employed by the public. Legislation is contemplated to place the practice of midwifery on the same status as in Great Britain.

88. *Child Welfare.*—Maternity and child-welfare work was well maintained throughout the year, the number of new cases and total attendances showing an increase in many instances. The following table indicates briefly the progress made and includes attendances from fourteen Colony villages :—

	Connaught Hospital and Campbell Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.
Ante-natal attendances	2,829	2,159	1,683	1,651
Labour cases admitted	251	260	90	117
Health visits	3,798	3,765	4,457	3,995
Infant-welfare clinic attendances	7,833	6,561	10,779	12,001

89. The immigrant natives from the Protectorate, who form the large majority of the inhabitants of Freetown and the Colony, come within the scope of the work of these institutions. The population of the Protectorate is for the most part rural and that of the more important towns is not large enough to justify the appointment of health visitors or the establishment of maternity and child-welfare centres as separate institutions. Facilities are provided at the general hospitals and dispensaries already referred to, for those who wish to avail themselves.

90. In connexion with the infant-welfare centres, three health visitors are employed, two of whom have been trained in England in welfare work and have also taken the C.M.B. The third is a locally-trained nurse and midwife. These visitors follow up the cases attending the ante-natal clinics and also visit children found ailing at the infant-welfare clinics.

Sanitation.

91. In addition to the facilities provided by the Medical Service for the treatment and prevention of disease, comprehensive measures are provided by Ordinance for the maintenance and improvement of sanitary conditions generally throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The preventive methods in operation resolve themselves chiefly into measures directed towards the provision and maintenance of pure water-supplies, and the control of insect-borne and other infectious diseases.

92. Owing to the prevailing financial depression, the engineering side of expenditure on public health was mainly restricted to the repair or renewal of permanent structures essential to the preservation of existing water-supplies, and of sanitary structures in general. In Freetown, the permanent canalization of Sanders Brook and the subsidiary drains of the several adjoining streets has been completed; and concrete or laterite surface drains were provided for seven other streets. Surface drainage was completed at King Tom Barracks and the repair of concrete drains and regrading of earth drains generally was continued. The protection of Moore's Brook outfall and Garrison Street outfall drain have been responsible for a great reduction in mosquito breeding. Other measures adopted against mosquito-borne diseases were daily house-to-house inspection for larvae, oiling of pools and gutters, filling of tree holes, and clearance of bush.

Four new type concrete rat-proof dustbins were erected in various parts of the city. This is in prosecution of a scheme for replacement by rat-proof dustbins of old open-type bins in a system of eighty dustbins from which refuse is collected by lorries and removed by train to a dumping site nine miles from Freetown. Daily house-to-house and general inspections are made for nuisances; meat and animals for slaughter are inspected daily. A series of inspections of provision stores in the Colony and Protectorate resulted in the seizure of large quantities of unsound food-stuffs of every description. One hundred and sixty-six inspections of schools were made and in almost every instance it was necessary to draw attention to the serious need for hygienic improvements. The vaccination of school children was continued.

93. The Headmen Ordinance contains provisions for the sanitation of the Colony towns and villages. Inspection of the mountain villages was carried out fortnightly by the police and reports made to the Health Department for necessary action. Other villages in the Colony were visited regularly by Sanitary Inspectors or Dispensers of the Medical Department.

94. From the administration point of view considerable progress was made during the year in the Protectorate. In one enactment under the Protectorate Health Areas Order in Council thirty-three of the more important towns and villages were declared health areas and the Public Health (Protectorate) Rules applied to all of them. The Rules make detailed provision for, *inter alia*, town-planning and building regulations, protection of water-supplies, drainage, disposal of refuse and nightsoil, clearing of bush, management of markets and slaughter-houses, food inspection, and for the notification and control of epidemic diseases in man and animals. Sanitary Inspectors are stationed at ten of the larger centres, their duties including periodic visits to the neighbouring health areas for the purpose of making inspections and advising the Paramount Chiefs who are health authorities where no Special Health Authority has been appointed. In fourteen of the health areas the Ordinance is administered by a Special Health Authority consisting of the District Commissioner, the Medical Officer, the Paramount Chief, and one other member. Monthly sanitary reports are returned on a form of questionnaire based on the health Rules.

95. As funds permitted, Government has provided pipe-borne water-supplies, or protection of the natural sources; markets, slaughter-houses, and incinerators.

96. This has been more especially applied in those centres where the Chief and natives have shown a keenness for and appreciation of sanitation and have endeavoured to make progress by their own efforts. It is encouraging to note that this keenness and voluntary effort is becoming more widespread throughout the Protectorate.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

97. *Colony*—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses on concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls and roofed

with corrugated iron sheets or palm tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or native timber boarding and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

98. The artisan class as a rule own their houses, but the labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for the accommodation of themselves and their families, and considerable overcrowding unfortunately arises therefrom.

99. There are no building societies in Freetown, but the City Council are at present considering a scheme whereby assistance may be given to owners of small houses to improve their dwellings. The Health and Building Authorities endeavour, by means of inspection and the enforcement of City Improvement Regulations, to improve housing conditions.

100. *Protectorate.*—In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm tile or thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate as a rule the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population who rent the accomodation they require.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

Minerals.

101. The minerals mined were gold and platinum. All the mineral won was exported. Prospecting was carried on for gold, diamonds, chromite, iron, and ilmenite.

102. *Gold and Platinum.*—Actual mining and production for export took place in respect of gold and platinum. The productions and values of the metals were :—

Mineral.	*Production. Oz. troy Crude Mineral.*	*Value (Estimated)* £
Gold	6,650	27,722
Platinum	594	3,093
		£30,815

The total value of £30,815 compares with an amount of £6,113 for the preceding year.

The quality and value of the minerals mined increased satisfactorily during the year. At the end of the year the production rate for gold was about 1,000 ounces a month. The estimated values quarterly were :—

	£
First quarter	3,458
Second quarter	4,357
Third quarter	8,450
Fourth quarter	14,550

The estimated value for the last quarter was helped by the increase which took place in the sterling price of gold and platinum.

103. The mineral production is in the hands of the British mining companies and European and American engineers are in charge of operations. The natives of the country are employed as artisans, clerks, headmen, and labourers. There are no independent native operators.

104. The contract and the daily wage system of employing native labour are both in operation. At present all mineral is won by alluvial mining. Much of this mining is being done in narrow rock-bound channels and in shallow alluvium at the heads of small streams. These places are suitable for hand labour methods only.

105. Whenever possible the contract system is introduced in preference to the daily wage, and as mining and prospecting become more systematized the number of natives being paid on an output basis will increase at the expense of the number receiving day wages.

106. It is probable that as time goes on larger and lower grade areas will be mined by hydraulic and mechanical excavating methods. Excavating plants are already in operation at two places, and show a great reduction in cost compared with hand methods. Hand labour methods, on both contract and daily wage systems, show a cost of about 1s. a head each day, or 1s. a cubic yard of alluvium.

107. The supply of labour for mining operations and for works connected with mining is ample and the mines do not require recruiting programmes. A sufficient number of labourers come to any place where they think work might be had.

108. At the end of the year, mining was providing employment for about 7,000 natives. One hundred and fifty natives were employed in prospecting, 830 in mining, and 6,000 on works in connexion with the railway, shipping installation, and equipment programme for the exploitation of the Marampa iron ore deposits.

109. *Ilmenite.*—Three samples of talings, obtained from the panning of platinum-bearing black sand, were sent by the Geological Survey for examination at the Imperial Institute as to their value for the manufacture of titanium pigment, and also as to

whether they contained any appreciable quantities of platinum. The results of commercial trials of these materials by a firm of titanium pigment manufacturers showed that pigments of satisfactory colour could be produced, by appropriate treatment, from them. They were found by analysis to contain 49 to 52.5 per cent of titanium dioxide, and were valued at 60s. to 65s. per ton, c.i.f London. The massive ilmenite which contained less than 34 per cent of titanium dioxide was also capable of yielding a good pigment, but on account of its lower titanium content was valued at only 20s. per ton. One sample of the tailings was found to contain about 12 dwt. of crude platinum per ton, but the others contained smaller amounts.

110. *Iron Ores.*—Actual mining on the Marampa deposit, for the development of which a loan of £500,000 from the Colonial Development Fund to the Sierra Leone Development Company is provided under guarantee by this Government, has not yet begun. The Company has, however, made excellent progress with the railway (about 55 miles long) which is being constructed from Marampa itself to Pepel, also with the works at the port itself.

111. Chemical analyses of 38 samples of iron ore were required in order that an estimate might be made of the value of a new iron-ore field in the Tonkolili Valley in the Koinadugu District of the Protectorate. The results showed that the majority of the samples represented ore of good quality, though a few of them contained a high percentage of phosphorus.

Agricultural Produce.

112. *Food Crops.*—The most important crop and staple food of the people is rice. There are at present no data from which to assess the total value of the crops grown. An attempt to estimate the rice crop gave something like 200,000 tons clean rice. Following rice, in order of importance as food, are cassava, yam, sweet potatoes, maize, millets, groundnuts, and coco-nuts.

113. Cotton and tobacco are grown for local consumption only. Attempts to foster cotton-growing on a large scale have not been successful, but certain areas within the Northern Province seem to be suitable for tobacco, the cultivation of which has increased considerably of late.

114. *Export Crops.*—The most important crops grown for export are palm kernels, palm oil, kola nuts, ginger, and piassava. Of these, palm kernels hold pride of place, as being this Colony's chief source of revenue at present. There is also now a good prospect of building up an export trade in rice, mentioned under " food crops."

115. The entire production of crops is in the hands of the individual native farmer, and a very large proportion of the population of the Protectorate devotes its energies to farming.

116. Instructional work and the improvement of crops and produce continue successfully through the efforts of the Agricultural Officers and produce inspectorate served closely by the advisory work (economics, entomology, and mycology) under guidance from the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture. Among the more important features of the work were included the extension of the growing of swamp rice in inland swamps, especially in the Southern Province, oil palm and coffee planting, improvement and increased production of piassava, raffia production, and cultivation with the plough (in the Northern Province).

117. *Piassava.*—In connexion with experiments carried out by the Department of Agriculture to determine the best method of preparing piassava, 84 samples prepared from the leaf of *Raphia vinifera* by retting in brackish water were sent to the Imperial Institute for comparative examination. The samples were divided into three series, representing respectively the fibre from over-mature, mature, and under-mature leaf bases; each series was subdivided into seven sets, of four samples each, representing the results of retting for seven different periods ranging from 21 to 105 days; and the four samples in each set were derived respectively from the back, front, sides, and heart of the leaf bases. The whole of the samples were carefully examined and the opinion of piassava dressers in London obtained as to their comparative quality and value. The fibre in each of the 84 samples was usually more uniform in character, and better cleaned and prepared, than the samples of piassava from Sierra Leone which were examined at the Imperial Institute in 1926. In general, the material prepared from under-mature leaf bases was inferior to that from the mature and over-mature leaf bases, and it was suggested by the Imperial Institute that the preparation of fibre from immature bases should be avoided. The sides of the leaf bases were found to furnish the best fibre, but in some cases the fibre from the back was equal in hardness and scarcely inferior in resilience; there would, however, be no commercial advantage in keeping separate the fibre from the different parts of the leaf bases. As regards the time of retting, so far as this could be judged from the appearance and quality of the samples, it should be unnecessary to continue the operation beyond 63 days under the conditions adopted in these experiments.

118. *Piassava Tow.*—This material was submitted by the Department of Agriculture as representing the tow produced in the cleaning of piassava for export. It was desired to ascertain whether there would be an outlet for it in such industries as upholstery and twine manufacture. Commercial experts to whom it was submitted considered that, if freed from hard pieces of piassava, the tow might be employed as a cheap stuffing material for upholstery, but that the price obtainable would probably be insufficient to render its shipment profitable. It would be unlikely to find an outlet in the

United Kingdom or on the Continent of Europe for twine manufacture, owing to its brittleness, irregular length and diameter, and general inferiority to the cheapest materials now employed.

119. *Sisal.*—This fibre, grown and prepared at the Njala Experimental Station, was clean, well-prepared, rather lustrous, of good strength, and about 5 feet long. The chemical examination showed that it was similar in composition and chemical behaviour to good commercial samples of East African sisal, and it was valued by merchants in London at £15 per ton with No. 1 East African sisal at £15 10s. per ton.

120. *Kola Nuts.*—In connexion with an enquiry which the Department of Overeas Trade had received from the Colonial Office regarding the possibilities of developing the export trade in dried kola nuts from Sierra Leone, information which had been obtained as a result of enquiries made among brokers in this country was furnished as to the market in the United Kingdom for the nuts. The present time does not appear to be opportune for such a project, but it was suggested that representative samples of the nuts should be sent to the Imperial Institute for examination and report, with a view to developing business when the market improves.

Live Stock.

121. There are as yet no statistics concerning the live stock of this country. Cattle-farming is carried out on a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) are imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country, and pigs to a small extent. There are a few horses, the majority of which again come from French territory. The value of the exports in hides (mainly untanned) amounted to £1,689.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

Imports.

122. The total value of imports into the Colony during 1931 amounted to £1,141,611 as compared with £1,424,175 in 1930, being a decrease of £282,564.

123. The following tables show the value of imports by classes during the past two years :—

	1930. £	1931. £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Commercial imports	1,217,960	928,009	—	289,951
Government imports	117,771	63,111	—	54,660
Specie	88,444	150,491	62,047	—
Total ...	£1,424,175	£1,141,611	62,047	344,611

Net decrease £282,564

	1930.	1931.	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Class I—Food, drink, and tobacco	381,007	239,817	—	141,190
Class II—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	161,708	111,037	—	50,671
Class III—Articles mainly manufactured.	790,442	639,021	—	151,421
Class IV—Miscellaneous	2,402	1,178	—	1,224
Class V—Bullion and specie ...	88,616	150,558	61,942	—
Total	£1,424,175	£1,141,611	61,942	344,506
			Net decrease	£282,564

124. With the exception of Class V, which shows an increase of £61,942, or 69.90 per cent, on the previous year, a marked decrease in the other classes is recorded. In Class I the following articles were mainly responsible for the deficit of £141,190: food £80,821; spirits £11,219 (19,131 gallons); wines £5,080 (27,075 gallons); unmanufactured tobacco £19,526 (401,110 lb.); beer and ale £16,146 (74,646 gallons); cigarettes £8,206 (13,794 lb.).

125. Class II showed a decrease of £50,671. The following table shows the articles which chiefly contributed to this deficit:—

		1930.		1931.		*Decrease.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Value.*	*Percentage.*
			£		£	£	
Coal—Commercial and Government	**Tons**	**42,763**	**62,698**	**36,100**	**53,166**	**9,532**	**15·20**
Groundnuts	**„**	**1,006**	**11,521**	**9**	**121**	**11,400**	**98·95**
Oil, illuminating	**Gal.**	**465,015**	**31,114**	**272,887**	**15,781**	**15,333**	**49·28**
„ lubricating	**„**	**48,435**	**6,075**	**34,520**	**4,974**	**1,101**	**18·12**
„ motor spirit	**„**	**369,976**	**22,185**	**308,493**	**15,164**	**7,021**	**31·65**

126. Commercial coal decreased by 12,118 tons, valued at £18,129, fewer vessels having called at this port for purposes of bunkering. The decrease in illuminating oil, 192,128 gallons (£15,333), may be attributed to the greater use of electric light by residents of Freetown.

127. Class III, in which is recorded the greatest deficit during the year, fell in value from £790,442 to £639,021. The decrease under this head was, with one or two exceptions, general. An increase of 526 tons (£1,730) was recorded in cement, and in metals (other kinds) the value exceeded that of 1930 by £38,676. These increases were mainly due to heavy importations by the mining companies operating in the country.

128. As in the previous year the greatest decrease in this class was in cottons—cotton piece-goods accounting for £34,588 and cottons, other, £27,533. Other items which showed a marked decrease are apparel £9,529; bags and sacks £10,028; beads £3,360;

motor cars £4,336; electrical and telegraphic apparatus £7,519; hats, etc., £6,469; matches £5,045; silk manufactures £7,310; stationery £7,435; casks, etc., £8,229; and wool, other kinds, £6,533.

129. The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piece-goods for the years 1927 to 1931 :—

Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Duty obtained.*
	sq. yds.	£	£
1927	9,376,122	317,934	58,265
1928	8,496,607	309,701	57,416
1929	5,837,797	204,926	37,042
1930	5,132,718	156,556	28,947
1931	5,014,822	121,960	22,302

130. The figures relating to other cotton goods were :—

Year.	*Value.*	*Duty obtained.*
	£	£
1927	127,114	22,851
1928	138,583	25,167
1929	97,157	17,235
1930	66,823	12,013
1931	39,841	6,846

131. From January to the suspension of the gold standard in September, the progressive decline of wholesale prices, which was the outstanding feature of 1930, continued unabated. Following the departure from gold, sterling prices naturally rose.

Countries from which Commodities come.

132. The principal items of import from the United Kingdom were cotton piece-goods, 4,519,348 square yards, £108,060; metals—iron manufactures, other kinds, £100,359; coal 36,081 tons, £53,106; boots and shoes, 51,061 pairs, £14,695; cement, 5,595 tons, £16,090; electrical and telegraphic apparatus £15,573; salt, 63,251 cwt., £13,091; cigarettes, 39,207 lb., £13,798; silk manufactures £11,410; motor vehicles £11,775; ships and boats £20,209; beer, 39,390 gallons, £9,335; and whisky, 5,085 gallons, £6,062.

133. The United States of America supplied unmanufactured tobacco, 939,193 lb., £42,128; flour, 39,001 cwt., £24,878; illuminating oil, 239,442 gallons, £13,607; motor spirit, 288,654 gallons, £14,013; lumber, 393,644 superficial feet, £5,179; sugar, 8,115 cwt., £6,896; and milk, 180,053 lb., £4,697. Beer, 54,706 gallons, £9,592; salt, 31,238 cwt., £6,163; matches, 25,802 gross boxes, £2,852; and hats, caps, and bonnets, £3,746, came from Germany.

134. Holland provided gin, 4,111 gallons, £1,334; beer, 9,110 gallons, £1,597; and apparel £5,081.

135. The chief imports from France were wines, 33,540 gallons, £6,206; brandy, 796 gallons, £971; perfumed spirits, 344 gallons, £928; rum, 1,013 gallons, £559; cottons, 76,330 square yards, £2,047; apparel £2,138; and silk manufactures £1,968.

Exports.

136. As a result of the continued trade depression the total value of exports from the Colony fell from £1,216,046 in 1930 to £923,613, a decrease of £292,433 or 24.05 per cent. The value of domestic exports alone decreased from £1,047,339 to £616,337. Exports are valued as they lie on the exporting ship, such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment. Specie exports rose from £27,640 to £231,900.

137. The following table is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1930 and 1931:—

		1930.		1931.	
		Quantity.	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Benniseed	tons	41	538	83	752
Cocoa, raw	tons	80	2,548	61	1,034
Ginger...	cwt.	39,437	57,228	38,532	32,518
Hides	lb.	94,555	2,853	69,262	1,689
Kola nuts	lb.	5,087,077	186,197	3,548,121	47,847
Palm kernels	tons	56,641	664,591	54,462	449,742
Palm oil	tons	3,652	79,310	1,359	19,830
Peppers	lb.	247,947	4,421	28,573	552
Piassava	tons	2,417	36,582	3,150	31,848
Platinum	oz.	488	3,631	590	2,946
Rice	tons	175	2,151	177	1,596
Gold	oz.	384	1,617	6,265	21,672

138. *Palm Kernels.*—The low price recorded at the end of 1930 (£10 15s. a ton) improved slightly during the first quarter of the year, being followed by a gradual decrease until August when £8 15s. a ton, the lowest price on record, was offered for this product. In October, the price, however, advanced to £10 10s. a ton, and a further improvement was recorded in November when £12 was reached and maintained during December. The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 54,462 tons as compared with 56,641 tons in 1930—a decrease of only 2,179 tons. The value including duty amounted to £449,742 as against £664,591 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of £214,849. The bulk of the kernels shipped was purchased on the Continent, Germany alone appropriating 31,864 tons as against 29,375 tons in 1930, an increase of 2,489 tons or 8.47 per cent. Exports to the United Kingdom fell from 17,713 tons in 1930 to 12,676 tons—a decrease of 5,037 tons or 28.44 per cent.

139. The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the past five years :—

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1927	65,436	1,077,450
1928	67,105	1,150,649
1929	60,205	876,308
1930	56,641	664,591
1931	54,462	449,742

140. *Palm Oil.*—The total export of palm oil amounted to 1,359 tons, valued at £19,830, as against 3,652 tons of a value of £79,310 in 1930. The bulk of this oil, as in previous years, went to the United Kingdom. The average European price per ton was £17 15s., a decrease of approximately £7 5s. on the price recorded in 1930.

141. *Kola Nuts.*—Shipments of kola nuts, the second most important article of domestic export, amounted to 3,548,121 lb. as compared with 5,087,077 lb. in 1930, and in value £47,847 as against £186,197. This decrease in quantity (1,538,956 lb.) and value (£138,350) may be attributed to three causes. Firstly, the result of the low prices offered for groundnuts in Europe which resulted in the reduced purchasing power of the natives of West Africa who are the consumers of this product. Secondly, by the increased cultivation in Nigeria of the nut and in consequence a heavy decrease in exports to that country—a falling away of over 1,000,000 lb. having been recorded; and thirdly, by exports to the Senegal, which fell from 487,653 lb. to 137,728 lb. ; this decrease, which has been gradual, is the result of the heavy preferential tariff imposed by the French Government.

142. Nigeria purchased 1,813,616 lb., the Gambia 1,412,753 lb., and Senegal 137,728 lb. The local price of kolas in 1931 ranged from £1 12s. in January to 19s. in December, and averaged throughout the year £1 4s. per measure (176 lb.)—a reduction of £2 18s. on the previous year's price. In the months of July and October the price fell as low as 10s. to 13s.

143. *Ginger.*—The quantity exported, 38,532 cwt., compares favourably with 1930, 39,437 cwt., although the value fell from £57,228 to £32,518.

144. The United States of America purchased more than half of the ginger crop—21,291 cwt., valued at £17,948. European prices averaged £1 7s. 7d. as compared with £2 1s. 5d. in 1930.

145. *Platinum.*—Exports increased from 488 oz. to 594 oz. in 1931, though a decrease in the value was recorded. In 1930 the

value of platinum exported was £3,631 as against £3,093 in 1931. The price of platinum fell as low as £5 5s. in April, advanced to £8 8s. in July, and ultimately settled at £9 10s. in October.

146. *Gold.*—Exports of gold showed a gratifying increase over the previous year. In 1930, 384 oz. (troy), valued at £1,617, were shipped. In 1931, 6,650 oz. (troy) of a value of £27,722, or an increase over the preceding year of 6,266 oz. (troy) and valued at £26,105, were exported. The total quantity of gold exported, as in the case of platinum, went to the United Kingdom.

Direction of Trade.

147. The following comparative table shows the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years :—

Year.	*Total imports less specie.*	*Re-exports less specie.*	*Net imports.*	*Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.*	*Excess of net imports over domestic exports.*	*Excess of domestic exports over net imports.*	*Customs duty on imports and exports.*	*Tonnage of shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1927 ...	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—	534,718	4,529,038
1928 ...	1,784,788	162,659	1,622,129	1,609,614	12,515	—	560,352	4,774,831
1929 ...	1,667,252	180,309	1,486,943	1,319,453	167,490	—	508,139	4,812,566
1930 ...	1,335,731	141,066	1,194,665	1,047,340	147,325	—	428,369	4,621,121
1931 ...	991,120	75,376	915,744	616,337	299,407	—	340,056	3,927,457

148. Of the total import trade of £1,141,611 in 1931, United Kingdom contributed £722,792 or 63.31 per cent as compared with £783,812 or 55.04 per cent in 1930. The United States of America accounted for £132,578 or 11.61 per cent, Germany came next in order with £69,312 or 6.07 per cent, while Foreign West African Possessions contributed £50,540 or 4.43 per cent.

149. Of the gross export trade of £923,613, £396,532 or 42.93 per cent went to the United Kingdom—an increase on the previous year of 15.19 per cent due entirely to re-exports of specie which amounted to £224,300—£291,641 or 31.58 per cent to Germany, British West African Possessions £60,626 or 6.56 per cent, Holland £44,074 or 4.77 per cent, and £34,307 or 3.71 per cent to the United States of America.

150. The increased cultivation of rice affords possibilities of an export trade to the neighbouring British West African Colonies.

Suggestions as to Development of Trade within the Empire.

151. Towards the end of 1931, consideration was given to the question of giving preference to Empire products and manufactures. A scheme was actually adopted in April, 1932, and will be the subject of report for 1932.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

152. *Artisans (Public Works).*—In Freetown during 1931, Public Works Department artisans were paid at 4s. to 5s. per day for journeymen and 2s. 6d. upwards for improvers; towards the end of the year, rates were reduced to from 3s. to 4s. for journeymen, the reduction corresponding to the decreased cost of staple articles of native diet such as rice, cassava, and palm oil.

153. In the Protectorate, rates of pay for artisans have been slightly higher than in Freetown due to the fact that this class are generally recruited from Freetown and expect slightly higher pay for working in the Protectorate. The great reduction of work and the decreased cost of living in the Protectorate has caused the rates to be reduced to an average of 3s. 6d. per day for carpenters and masons and 4s. 6d. per day for blacksmiths.

154. *Labourers (Public Works).*—In Freetown, the pay of skilled labourers was from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day, but this was reduced towards the end of the year to 1s. per day.

155. In the Protectorate, the average rate of pay of labourers in Government employment was ninepence for a day's work of eight hours. There was a considerable decrease in the price of rice (staple food) during the year. A labourer earned in a week, on an average, the price of a bushel (84 lb.) of clean rice.

156. *Railway workers.*—The following table gives the minimum, maximum, and average rates of pay of railway workers :—

Grade.	*Minimum.*		*Maximum.*		*Average rate per diem paid in 1931.*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Traffic—						
Station porters ...		9	1	3	1	1
Pointsmen	1	3	2	0	1	7
Shunter pointsmen	1	6	3	0	2	6
Watchmen ...		9	2	0		11
Yard foremen ...	2	6	6	6	3	6
Telegraph messengers	—		—			11
Caretakers	1	0	1	3		10
Train porters ...	1	0	1	6	1	4
Trolley boys ...	1	0	1	6	1	4
Lampmen	1	3	2	0	1	3

Grade.	*Minimum.*		*Maximum.*		*Average rate per diem paid in 1931.*	
Engineering—	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Timekeepers ...	2	9	6	6	4	1½
Artisans	2	6	10	0	3	2
Headmen	1	9	2	9	2	0
Telegraph linesmen	2	0	5	6	2	9½
Telegraph labourers	1	3	1	9	1	4½
Labourers		8	1	3		11
Locomotive and carriage—						
Artisans	2	6	10	0	4	5
Gatemen	1	6	4	0	3	3
Storemen	2	9	6	6	4	0
Shops clerks ...	3	0	5	0	3	3
Tools clerks ...	1	3	6	6	4	0
Timekeepers ...	2	9	6	6	3	0
Brakesmen ...		9	1	6		11
Carriage cleaners ...		9	2	0	1	2
Coalmen		9	1	9	1	2
Drivers (pumping and stationary engines)	1	3	4	0	2	5
Drivers (crane) ...	1	6	5	0	2	9
Engine cleaners ...		9	2	9	1	2
Greasers	1	3	2	6	1	11
Lighters-up ...	1	3	3	0	1	8
Pumpmen		9	1	6		11
Passed firemen ...	3	0	5	3	3	10
Firemen	1	9	2	6	2	1
Crane firemen ...	1	0	1	6	1	3
Washers-out ...	1	3	3	0	2	3
Labourers (skilled)	1	3	1	9	1	4
Labourers (unskilled)		8	1	3		9
Painters	1	6	6	0	2	7
Apprentices ...	1	0	2	6	2	0

157. The average rates paid during 1931 are rather lower than in the previous year owing to changes in staff. The standard rates are the same as were introduced in 1926.

158. The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

159. *Cost of living for labouring classes.*—While the cost of living for officials rose slightly under increased taxation, that of the labourers fell substantially.

160. The staple food for labouring classes most nearly corresponding to the 4-lb. loaf is the " kettle " of rice but as rice is supplemented by " foo-foo " (cassava) to a greater or lesser extent according to the purchasing powers of the individual, it does not provide such a " yard-stick " as the 4-lb. loaf does in the United Kingdom. The present price of a kettle of rice (21 lb.) is 1s. 6d.; a labourer's family of five will probably consume from 1½ to 2 kettles of rice per week.

161. The artisan's family will probably consume less rice but will substitute a larger amount of " foo-foo." Artisans also eat a certain amount of bread and fish.

162. The staple food-stuffs of the subordinate railway staff are, as for the labouring classes, rice, cassava, palm oil, etc. It may be taken that the average cost of living for the majority of the daily-wage staff (including labourers) is from 6d. to 8d. a day for themselves and family. More highly paid railway artisans, however, have a higher standard of living, as for other artisans.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

163. An Education Ordinance passed in 1929 provides a complete Code for all Colony and Protectorate schools. Separate Schedules of Rules which apply to the Colony and Protectorate respectively, differ in the important means of providing Government grants-in-aid.

164. In the Colony the schools are conducted by Boards of Managers as a result of the amalgamation of the Mission primary schools. The Managers are responsible for the upkeep of the school buildings, but the Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment in the primary schools. All school fees are paid into Government revenue.

165. The secondary schools on the Assisted List in the Colony receive capitation and equipment grants-in-aid. Grants are also paid to qualified teachers.

166. In the Protectorate, the assisted schools receive capitation, building, and equipments grants, but the salaries of the teachers are paid by the Mission authorities. Additional grants to qualified teachers in the Protectorate are paid by Government.

167. *Colony Schools.*—In the Colony there are at present 48 assisted primary schools with 7,126 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 5,010.

168. The secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows :—

Boys—6 schools with 83 primary, 315 preparatory, and 274 secondary pupils.

Girls—4 schools with 399 primary, 102 preparatory, and 125 secondary pupils.

169. Included in the boys' secondary schools is the Prince of Wales School, established and maintained entirely by Government. This school makes special provision for the teaching of science and for technical instruction and is liberally equipped with laboratories and workshops.

170. There are also four assisted schools in the Colony providing technical training—the Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), the Diocesan Technical School (carpentry, surveying, and building construction), the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry and cabinet making), and the American Methodist Episcopal Girls' Industrial School (domestic science and arts).

171. With regard to the education of girls, domestic science in all its branches forms a most important part of their curriculum. A special examination is held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas are awarded to successful students. Provision is also made at the Roman Catholic Convent School for instruction in this subject to girls who have already left school and are contemplating marriage. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and at the Princess Christain Mission Hospital.

172. Scholarships tenable at the Women Teachers Training College at Wilberforce are awarded to girls from the secondary schools. The College is residential and is financed and largely controlled by Government.

173. Higher education for boys is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University. Arts, theological, and science courses are provided.

174. A separate course for the training of men teachers is also provided at the Fourah Bay College. Residential scholarships are awarded annually by Government, which also finances the scheme for teacher training.

175. *Protectorate Schools.*—In the Protectorate 11 missionary authorities conduct 88 assisted schools with 4,542 boys and 1,456 girls on the rolls. In addition, these bodies conduct 82 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 2,228 pupils.

176. The Government controls 10 boys' schools in the Protectorate with 432 pupils. These, with the exception of the Bo School and the Protectorate Central College at Koyeima, are rural schools of junior primary grades.

177. *Bo School.*—The Bo School was established by Government in 1906 for the education of the sons and nominees of chiefs. It aims at providing the boys with a liberal education in preparation for the important work they will probably be called upon to undertake in connexion with their chiefdoms. Hygiene and sanitation, town-planning, building, and hand and eye training are important parts of the curriculum.

178. *Koyeima College.*—The Central College at Koyeima is intended to provide education for Protectorate youths beyond that given in the primary schools. The College provides an adequate training in such technical subjects as woodwork, building, tailoring, wood-carving, surveying, town-planning, and agriculture, and will also, it is hoped, in time become the centre for the training of Protectorate teachers.

179. *Music, &c.*—The natives of Sierra Leone have a real gift for music—both vocal and instrumental. Most of the large churches and chapels have pipe organs which are played by African organists. Many of them, too, show skill on the pianoforte and other instruments. The band of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force, is an outstanding example of how far musical art can be developed.

180. A special music master has been engaged to teach singing on correct lines in the schools, and very good results have been achieved. Naturally the children excel in rendering negro spirituals but they have made great progress in music of a more classical nature. An annual singing competition has been inaugurated among the schools and this has been highly appreciated and the competition is very keen.

181. Dramatic art is being encouraged to some extent and the students of the secondary schools are proving apt pupils. This faculty is receiving attention and steps are being taken to concentrate on it at an early date.

Welfare Institutions.

182. There are no orphanages or Poor Law institutions in the Colony and Protectorate. Government, however, provides a certain sum yearly as a grant towards the relief of the poor in the Colony, which sum is disbursed by Charity Commissioners. In the Protectorate native customs demand that the poor and sick be looked after by the people of the chiefdom concerned.

183. As regards members of the native races living in the Colony, the Tribal Administration Ordinance empowers the Tribal Ruler to levy a small toll on the members of his tribe for the following objects, *inter alia* :—

(*a*) the relief of the poor and sick,
(*b*) burial of the poor having no relatives at time of death,
(*c*) relief of any member of the tribe in distress.

184. There are also in existence many Friendly Societies whose object is the relief of the members in time of distress and death.

Mental Home.

185. There is a Mental Home at Kissy about 5 miles from Freetown.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

186. *Colony.*—The principal means of communication between the towns of the Colony is by narrow roads; there is, however, a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by tar-surfaced laterite roads, and a laterite gravel road from Hill Station, two miles in length, affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 50 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 18 miles are motorable—the principal streets are provided with concrete surface, water drains, and are surface treated with bitumen.

187. *Protectorate.*—A very considerable road programme has been carried out in the Protectorate during the last four years, and at the end of 1931—including approximately 250 miles completed previous to 1928—nearly 820 miles of motor roads had been constructed, only two or three bridges remaining to be completed for the whole of this mileage to be opened to traffic and it is anticipated that this work will be completed before the end of February, 1932. In general, the Protectorate motor roads are 16 feet in width and are surfaced with laterite gravel. The majority of bridges are built of steel joists, with concrete abutments and piers, and timber decking. A number of timber bridges still remain, and these are being replaced as their condition requires and funds permit.

188. There are fourteen ferries in the Protectorate for transporting motor vehicles over the large rivers, in cases where the width of the river has rendered the construction of a bridge financially impracticable.

Railway.

189. The total length of open line at the end of 1931 was 311 miles, and the gauge 2 feet 6 inches.

190. Capital expenditure of the railway to 31st December, 1931, was £1,741,904.

191. The total revenue of the railway was £146,500, which shows a decrease of £44,077 on the figure for the previous year. The depression in trade which manifested itself in 1930 continued throughout the year under review. The railway receipts were also appreciably depleted owing to the growth of road competition. The revenue includes £1,382 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

192. The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £220,792. This total includes £86,777 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

193. Passenger journeys in the year were 252,472, a decrease of 6,362 on the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 61,859 tons against 70,949 tons in 1930.

	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile ...	9 6·11	11 3·44	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39
Working expenses per mile	5 1·09*	9 2·55	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48
Passengers carried ...	438,388	604,737	367,602	258,834	252,472
Tonnage carried	62,084	78,385	75,473	70,949	61,859

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

194. The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 40 locomotives, 75 coaching vehicles, and 326 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

195. The motor bus service was placed in charge of a Committee during the year. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of 6¼ miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, in the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1931 consisted of nine passenger vehicles and one goods lorry.

196. The total number of passengers carried was 350,000 and the gross receipts amounted to £4,000.

The staff employed was :—

Europeans	1
Africans	23
Total	24

Postal Business.

197. There was a further general falling off in postal business during 1931 due to the continuance throughout the year of the depression in trade. Postal business was conducted from 22 post offices and 48 postal agencies; money order business from 24 and postal order business from 52 offices.

198. The total revenue collected was £22,503 as against a sum of £26,925 the previous year. Of this amount £11,852 was derived from direct postal revenue, £6,686 from Customs duty on parcels, and £3,965 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

199. As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds dealt with during the year was 1,858,572, as compared with 2,014,666 in 1930. Included therein are 92,335 registered articles.

200. Money order transactions decreased from 5,079 (value £42,813) in 1930 to 4,385 (value £30,502) in 1931.

201. The total number and value of postal orders issued during the year (46,314 and £29,927) and also the number and value of postal orders paid (38,549 and £25,940) showed decreases on the corresponding figures for the previous year which were—orders issued 55,351, value £36,437, orders paid 45,086, value £31,339.

202. The parcel post transactions also showed a falling off—33,966 parcels being handled as against 44,614 the previous year.

203. In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (within Great Britain only), 8,725 parcels were received (value £16,413), as compared with 12,131 (value £23,495) in 1930.

Telegraph System.

204. The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo; this system is connected up by branches with most of the District headquarters in the Protectorate. The total mileage is 1,126¾ miles, plus the railway traffic control line of 455 miles.

205. A cable connects the Island of Sherbro with the mainland.

Telephones.

206. The only service is that in Freetown and district, maintained by the Railway Department. Total mileage is 377 miles 340 yards.

Cables and Wireless.

207. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

208. Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to large numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short wave-lengths.

Shipping.

209. There was a decrease of 157 in the number of steam and motor vessels entering the Colony during the year, and in tonnage 347,201. Of a total of 1,963,798 tons entered, 55.78 per cent was British, 9.16 per cent French, 9.13 per cent German, 8.79 per cent American, 7.06 per cent Italian, and 6.47 per cent Dutch. The following table gives details of nationality and tonnage entered during the year :—

Steam and Motor Vessels entered.

Nationality.	*Number.*	*Tonnage.*	*Percentage proportion to total tonnage.*
American	51	172,634	8·79
British	348	1,095,487	55·78
Danish	5	4,555	0·23
Dutch	55	127,098	6·47
French	48	179,762	9·16
German	71	179,329	9·13
Greek	1	2,127	0·11
Italian	45	138,719	7·06
Norwegian	10	2,895	0·15
Spanish	7	13,009	0·66
Swedish	20	48,183	2·46
Totals	661	1,963,798	100·00

Of the above vessels 13 entered at Sherbro, 6 at Mano Salija, and 8 at Sulima.

210. The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports :—

Line.	*From*	*Frequency of calls.*	*Mail contracts.*	*Other features of contract and other remarks.*
American West African Line ...	New York	Every 20 days with general cargo.	Mail contract with U.S.A. Government outwards.	—
Elder Dempster and Company...	United Kingdom ports.	Passengers fortnightly; cargo frequently.	Liverpool and West African Colonies.	Colony pays a proportion of the subsidy for conveyance of mails between Liverpool and West African Colonies.
do. do. ...	Continental ports ...	Fortnightly.	—	—
do. do. ...	Canada	Monthly.	—	—
Fabre-Fraissinet	Marseilles	Monthly.	—	—
Holland West African	Hamburg, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Passengers monthly; cargo monthly.	Mail contract with the Netherlands Government.	—
Navigazione Triestine Libera ...	Genoa, coast ports...	Cargo monthly.	—	—
Woermann	Hamburg, Southampton and continental ports.	Passengers monthly.	Mail contract with Spanish Government.	—
do.	Hamburg, Amsterdam.	Cargo monthly.	do.	—
United Africa Coy. Limited ...	Liverpool, coast ports.	Cargo monthly.	—	—

211. The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes, and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about four tons. During recent years motor launches have come into use and this form of water transport appears to be growing increasingly popular with the natives.

212. There are four ports of entry in the Colony—Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima, and Mano Salija.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

Banking.

213. Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

214. Both banks afford their customers saving bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank controlled from Freetown with nineteen agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1931, was £64,238 10s. 8d.

215. There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered, precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

216. The coins current in Sierra Leone are :—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d. and ½d.

217. The United Kingdom coins are being superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metal of the same denominations and of the same standard weights, and authorized by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

218. Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

219. West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s. and 1s. were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denominations were put into circulation on 1st July, 1928: the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

220. The use of and the inspection of weights and measures in Sierra Leone are regulated by the Weights and Measures Ordinance (Cap. 233) and Rules made thereunder. The legal units employed are the pound avoirdupois, the gallon, the yard, and the square yard.

221. The Sierra Leone standards of weights and measures are :—

Length.—An imperial standard yard graduated to parts of one-eighth part of an inch.

Avoirdupois Weight.—112 lb. or 1 cwt. 56 lb. or ½ cwt. 28 lb. or 1 quarter. 14 lb. or 1 stone. 7 lb. 4 lb. 2 lb. 1 lb. ½ lb. ¼ lb. 1 oz. ½ oz. ¼ oz.

Measures of Capacity.—1 bushel. ½ bushel. 1 peck. 1 gallon. ½ gallon. 1 quart. 1 pint. ½ pint. ¼ pint or gill.

222. The Sierra Leone standards were verified by the Board of Trade in England before being brought into use. Copies of these standards have been procured duly authenticated as secondary standards and issued to Deputy Inspectors.

223. Deputy Inspectors of Weights and Measures carry out periodical inspection of weights and measures and weighing machines in all trade centres and stamp those found to be just and accurate.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

224. *Canalization of Streams and Drainage.*—Owing to the drastic reduction in expenditure rendered necessary by the depression in world trade, the amount of construction work carried out by the Public Works Department during the past year has been comparatively small. Work on the canalization of streams and street drainage, however, made very satisfactory progress, and, although the first section is still incomplete, the improvement in the sanitary conditions of the District is most marked. Three hundred and twenty yards of the main Sanders Brook canal were constructed

and over 1,400 linear yards of concrete street drains were laid in connexion with the section of the Improvement Scheme dealing with the Sanders Brook area.

225. Although the amount of money available for expenditure was comparatively small, the sub-surface drainage work carried out at King Tom Police Barracks has been most effective, and has resulted in a very great improvement in the area surrounding the barracks. The drainage of Fourah Bay Road and the works for the protection of the Cliff at Moore's Brook have been satisfactorily completed.

226. *Landing ground for Aircraft.*—During the year a landing ground for aircraft was constructed near the village of Wellington about seven miles by motor road from Freetown. The actual landing ground is of cruciform shape with east and west arm 640 yards in length, and north and south arm of 600 yards in length; the total area of the ground being approximately 41 acres in extent.

227. *Wharf Repairs.*—The work on Freetown wharf repairs and improvements was completed during the year under report, and consisted of the construction of a heavy rubble apron in front of the existing wharf wall on a slope of 2 to 1, rising up to a horizontal berm at the face of the wall at mean sea-level. A total quantity of over 24,500 tons of rock, the majority of which was obtained from the Public Works Department quarry, was used in forming the apron.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Courts of Justice.

228. *The West African Court of Appeal* has both civil and criminal jurisdiction in appeal cases arising in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia; its Judges consist of the Judges of the Supreme Courts of those Colonies together with the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, the President of the Court being the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast. The Court sits at Accra for the hearing of cases sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Gold Coast, and at Freetown for those sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Supreme Court of the Gambia.

229. *Courts of the Colony.*—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony :—

(i) *The Supreme Court* (*Cap.* 205).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony and of the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision of a magistrate.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap.* 43).

These are Courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

(iv) *Tribal Rulers* (*Cap.* 217).

For each of several tribes, members of which are permanently or temporarily resident in Freetown, the Governor has appointed a Tribal Ruler, whose duty it is to see to the welfare of the members of his tribe and to settle small disputes. Proceedings before these Tribal Rulers are conducted in a very informal manner. A Tribal Ruler may make rules for various purposes, subject to confirmation by the Governor, and may prescribe fines for contravention of such rules. The payment of fines may be enforced by the Police Magistrate.

The provisions of the Ordinance (Cap. 217) have been extended by Order in Council to three other places in the Colony.

230. *Courts of the Protectorate.*—The Courts of Justice of the Protectorate are as follows :—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Cap.* 169).

(*a*) This Court is composed of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom is for this purpose styled " Judge of the Circuit Court."

(*b*) The Court has extensive criminal and civil jurisdiction as defined by the Ordinance (Cap. 169). It has no jurisdiction in divorce and matrimonial causes.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Cap.* 169).

(*a*) In each District there is a Court consisting of the District Commissioner and known as "the Court of the District Commissioner."

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of Districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those Districts. (Cap. 167.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the District in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Cap. 167.)

(*b*) The jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in certain specified cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Cap.* 169).

These Courts are composed of native Chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than persons employed in the Government Service.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Cap.* 170).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as "Joint Judges" to decide petty cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner, who in certain cases can review its decisions.

231. The criminal statistics for the Circuit Court and Courts of District Commissioners in the Protectorate in 1931 were as follows :—

Number of persons prosecuted	1,451
Number of persons imprisoned	300
Number of persons fined or otherwise punished	684
Number of persons condemned to death ...	4
Number of persons discharged	463

232. The details of cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court in Freetown were as follows :—

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons discharged.*	*Remarks.*
Assault and battery ...	71	77	60	17	—
Harbour offence ...	33	43	39	4	—
Stowaways	24	24	10	14	
Customs offence ...	22	23	20	3	—
Housebreaking	19	19	8	11	—
Burglary...	13	5	2	3	—
Larceny	136	398	277	121	—
Larceny from shop ...	48	43	38	5	—
Larceny from ship ...	8	9	9	—	—
Public health offence ...	218	225	215	10	—
Shop breaking	14	14	9	5	—
Larceny from a house ...	85	85	59	26	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law.	8	8	5	3	—
Selling palm wine without a licence.	39	43	40	3	—
Disorderly conduct ...	63	99	88	11	
Fighting	48	96	91	5	
Drunk	37	37	37	—	
Wounding	14	19	10	9	—
Larceny	29	29	29	—	Juvenile Offenders.
Assault and battery ...	2	2	2	—	"
Throwing stones ...	2	2	2	—	"
Trespass	1	1	1	—	"
Committing nuisance ...	1	1	1	—	"

233. *Payment of Fines by Instalment.*—A magistrate may allow " a reasonable period " for the payment of a fine. The experiment was made at one time of allowing a generous period within which small fines might be paid, but it was found most unsatisfactory. The persons fined made little or no effort to pay the small sum involved, and collection gave a great deal of trouble. In fact some fines were not recovered at all. The present practice is to allow time when

(*a*) the fine is large, or

(*b*) the fine is small and there is a reasonable prospect of its being paid without unnecessary trouble.

234. *Juvenile Offenders.*—Young persons are detained in the Freetown Prison, a portion of that institution being set apart for them.

Police.

235. The Police Force is organized under the Police Ordinance, Cap. 156 of the Laws of the Colony. The authorized strength of the Force consists of 1 Commissioner, 1 Assistant Commissioner, 1 Chief Inspector, 1 Senior Inspector, 2 Inspectors (Europeans), and 3 African Sub-Inspectors, 1 Sergeant Major, 30 Sergeants, 58 First Class Constables, 76 Second Class Constables, and 131 Third Class Constables. The strength has been temporarily reduced by 31 constables owing to the need for economy.

236. The following Rules are made under the Ordinance :—

Lost Property,
Leave,
Good Conduct,
Dress, and
Police Reward Fund.

237. The duties of the Force are concerned with the preservation of the peace, prevention and detection of crime, or other infraction of the Law; and, for these purposes, members of the Force are invested with all the powers, authorities, privileges, and immunities, and are liable to all the duties and responsibilities conferred, or imposed, upon constables by the Ordinance, by the Common Law of England.

238. Enlistment is for five years the first year being probationary, followed by a further term of five years and thereafter any term between one and five years. All probationers undergo a full course of six months' training before being drafted to full duty. The course of instruction consists of education, general police duties, traffic duty and drill. Promotions are by examination and selection. There is a short musketry course sufficient to train the men in the use of the rifle in case of internal disturbance. The office is pensionable.

239. Offences committed by the rank and file are dealt with by the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner, and in a certain number of cases the punishment requires the confirmation of the Governor.

240. The police perform duties in the Colony only and are distributed as follows :—

Freetown, 251 (including 16 detectives).
Headquarters District, 29.
Mountain District, 24.

The police at the Headquarters District being under the supervision of the District Commissioner.

241. The rank and file is composed of a great many tribes the principal of which are :—

Mendi 44, Temne 85, Aku 58, Susu 24. All speak English.

242. The Police Reward Fund has now lapsed into general revenue and has been replaced by an annual grant of £100. From this, rewards for special services are paid and sports and recreation provided.

Prisons.

243. There are now ten prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows :—

Colony : Freetown, convict and local : Bonthe, local.

Protectorate : Northern Province, local prisons : Kambia, Port Loko, Batkanu, Kabala, Makeni. Southern Province, local prisons : Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun.

244. The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the years 1930 and 1931 was as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*
Males	831	859
Females	28	17
Juveniles	43	37

245. The number of persons committed to the local prisons of Colony and Protectorate during the years 1930 and 1931 was :—

	1930.	*1931.*
Males	1,280	1,003
Females	11	5

246. The daily average number of prisoners in custody at the central prison at Freetown during the years 1930 and 1931 was :—

	1930.	*1931.*
Males	194	131

247. *Juvenile Offenders.*—Juvenile offenders are separated from adult prisoners at the main gate of the prison and they are afterwards kept apart from other prisoners of all classes. During working hours the boys occupy a large room in the female prison where they are taught to cut out and sew by hand simple articles of clothing. One of the observation wards in the hospital block of the male prison is used as a schoolroom, and the boys are taught elementary subjects from 4.45 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. on five nights a week. Meals are served in this room, and during their leisure time the boys are allowed to read books or play games.

248. Female and juvenile prisoners, sentenced to imprisonment by the District courts or committed to prison for safe custody pending trial, are transferred to the central prison at Freetown.

249. *Health.*—There was an outbreak of epidemic oedema at Kenema and Freetown Prisons, otherwise the general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was 11.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

250. The more important Ordinances which became law during 1931 are as follows :—

The Marampa Railway and Harbour Works Construction Ordinance, 1931;
The Domestic Loans Ordinance, 1931;
The Foreshores Ordinance, 1931;
The Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance, 1931;
The Court Messengers Ordinance, 1931.
The Destruction of Locusts Ordinance, 1931;
The Ferries Ordinance, 1931; and
The Non-Native Poll Tax Ordinance, 1931.

251. The Concessions Ordinance, 1931, though of considerable length, is largely a re-enactment of the Concessions Ordinance, 1924, and establishes no new principle. There were several amendments to the Minerals Ordinance, 1927, for the purpose of reconciling the requirements of the Law with the needs of practical miners but they have disturbed no general principle.

252. The Marampa Ordinance, which empowers the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, to construct a railway from Pepel Point to the Marampa Iron Ore Deposits and confers very considerable powers and privileges on that company, was the outcome of prolonged negotiations between Government, the Company, and the Secretary of State. The Ordinance contains a Section designed to prevent those powers and privileges from passing out of British hands.

253. Under the Domestic Loans Ordinance, 1931, £150,150 was raised and spent.

254. The Foreshores Ordinance, 1931, was passed to regularize the legal position in regard to existing wharves, and empowers the Governor to grant leases of the foreshore and sea bed. It also contains provisions enabling Government to reclaim parts of the foreshore and sea bed, and providing for the vesting of all such reclaimed lands in the Crown.

255. The Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance, 1931, has for its object a closer control over such exhibitions and the posters and pictures which are usually displayed to advertise the same. The Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Board of Control to which all films must be submitted before they can be displayed.

256. The Court Messengers Ordinance, 1931, applies to the Force of Court Messengers (who are, in reality, the Protectorate Police) the usual provisions for the organization, discipline, and control of a Police Force. Sections 27 to 32 provide for the enlistment and service of Supernumerary and Special Court Messengers. Should trouble arise in the Protectorate the Force can be rapidly expanded.

257. The Destruction of Locusts Ordinance, 1931, is designed to enable the Agricultural Department to co-ordinate all available resources in any area which is in danger from locusts. The damage done in the Northern Province of the Protectorate during March, April, and May, 1931, by invading locusts and the difficulties experienced in meeting their attacks, demonstrated the need for some powers of compulsion and co-ordination if similar attacks in the future are to be met with any reasonable prospect of success.

258. The Ferries Ordinance, 1931, was passed to vest all public ferries in the Protectorate in His Majesty, to enable Government,

which has constructed all such ferries, to charge tolls for their use, and for purposes incidental to the latter object. Section 16 empowers the Governor to " let " all or any of such tolls.

259. The Non-Native Poll Tax Ordinance, 1931, has for its object the imposition of a yearly tax of £4 a head on all non-natives who come to Sierra Leone for purposes of gain or profit. It should be noted that wives living with their husbands are exempted from liability under Section 3 (2), and powers of remission and refund are given to the Governor in Council by Section 14. The Magistrates have also power to reduce the amount payable in individual cases under Section 10.

260. The only subordinate legislation made during the year which appears to call for comment as being of special importance or establishing a new principle is as follows :—

The Stamp Duty (No. 2) Order in Council, 1931, which makes real estate as well as personal estate liable to estate duty and doubles the amount of duty payable in respect of estates exceeding £100 in value.

The Stamp Duty (No. 3) Order in Council, 1931, which extends the provisions of the Stamp Duty Ordinance, 1924, in so far as they appear to be applicable thereto, to the Protectorate.

261. By a Royal Order in Council of 29th June, 1931, which amends the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1924, the Commissioner of the Central Province, who ceased to exist on 1st January, 1931, was removed from the list of official members.

262. *Ordinances.*—The following Ordinances and minor legislation were passed during the year under review :—

(1) Census Ordinance, 1931.

(2) Marampa Railway and Harbour Works Construction Ordinance, 1931.

(3) Interpretation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(4) Domestic Loans Ordinance, 1931.

(5) (1930) Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.

(6) Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(7) Minerals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(8) Public Health (Protectorate) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(9) Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(10) Stamp Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(11) Foreshores Ordinance, 1931.

(12) Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance, 1931.

(13) Court Messengers Ordinance, 1931.

(14) Interpretation (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1931.

(15) Immigration Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(16) Magistrates' Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(17) Courts of Requests (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(18) Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(19) Pensions (Non-European Officers) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(20) Stamps (Demonetization) Ordinance, 1931.

(21) Destruction of Locusts Ordinance, 1931.

(22) (1932) Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.

(23) Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(24) House Tax (Colony) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(25) Auctioneers' (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(26) Aku Mohammedan Burial Board Ordinance, 1931.

(27) Ferries Ordinance, 1931.

(28) Non-Native Poll Tax Ordinance, 1931.

(29) Concessions Ordinance, 1931.

(30) Minerals (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1931.

(31) Non-Native Poll Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(32) Court Messengers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

(33) Henry Alfred Young Pensions Ordinance, 1931.

263. *Orders in Council* were made as follows :—

(1) Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Order in Council, 1931.

(2) Health Districts (Pujehun and Yonni) Order in Council, 1931.

(3) Customs (Legal Quays and Sufferance Wharves) (Amendment) Order in Council, 1931.

(4) Customs (Transit Sheds) (Amendment) Order in Council, 1931.

(5) Koinadugu District Closed Areas to Prospecting (Amendment) Order in Council, 1931.

(6) Dangerous Drugs Order in Council, 1931.

(7) Freetown Municipality (Arrears of Licence Fees) Order in Council, 1931.

(8) Public Holidays Order in Council, 1931.

(9) Public Holidays (No. 2) Order in Council, 1931.

(10) District Commissioners' Court Fees Order in Council, 1931.

(11) Freetown Municipal Council (Arrears of Rates) Order in Council, 1931.

(12) House Tax (Extension of Time) Order in Council, 1931.

(13) Gum Copal (Export Prohibition) Order in Council, 1931.

(14) Pensionable Offices Order in Council, 1931.

(15) Forest (Protection) Order in Council, 1931.

(16) Customs Tariff Order in Council, 1931.

(17) Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order in Council, 1931.

(18) Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order in Council, 1931.

(19) Unlawful Societies (Bia Hine and Others) Expulsion Order, 1931.

(20) Protectorate Health Areas Order in Council, 1931.

(21) Stamp Duty Order in Council, 1931.

(22) November Public Holiday Order in Council, 1931.

(23) Marampa Closed Area to Prospecting Order, 1931.

(24) Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 4) Order in Council, 1931.

(25) Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 6) Order in Council, 1931.

(26) Customs (Fees) Order in Council, 1931.

(27) Customs Tariff (No. 5) Order in Council, 1931.

(28) Stamp Duty (No. 2) Order in Council, 1931.

(29) Stamp Duty (No. 3) Order in Council, 1931.

(30) Hill Station and Wilberforce Barracks (Dog Licences) Order in Council, 1931.

(31) December Public Holiday Order in Council, 1931.

(32) Ferry Tolls Order in Council, 1931.

(33) Kumrabai-Mamila Ferry Discontinuances Order in Council, 1931.

264. *Governor's Orders* were made as follows :—

(1) House Tax (Colony) (Exception) Order, 1931.

(2) Lunatic Asylum Order, 1931.

(3) Lunatic Asylum (Revocation) Order, 1931.

(4) Makeni Town (Amendment) Order, 1931.

(5) Kissy Headman and Committee Removal Order, 1931.

(6) Regulation of Work by Residents (Aku Town, Matindi, Samblama, Sussex, Tasso and Waterloo) Order, 1931.

(7) House Tax (Colony) (Exemption) Order, 1931.

(8) Regulation of Work by Residents (Samuel Town) Order, 1931.

(9) (A deportation order of one Karimu Ture) (Unentitled).

265. *Rules* were made as follows :—

(1) General Minerals (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(2) Railway (Telegraph) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(3) Railway (Goods Tariff) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(4) Customs Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(5) Public Transport Services (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(6) Customs (Marking of Imported Merchandise) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(7) Railway (Goods Tariff) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(8) Courts of Native Chiefs (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(9) Railway (Goods Tariff) (Amendment) (No. 3) Rules, 1931.

(10) Railway (Telegraph) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(11) Pensions (Non-European Officers) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(12) Freetown Waterworks (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(13) Telephone (Officials) Rules, 1931.

(14) Railway (Goods Tariff) (Amendment) (No. 4) Rules, 1931.

(15) General Minerals (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(16) Post Office Savings Bank (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(17) Pensions (European Officers) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(18) Pensions (Non-European Officers) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(19) Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(20) Freetown Waterworks (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(21) Customs Drawback (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(22) Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(23) Mineral Royalties Rules, 1931.

(24) Native Produce (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(25) Native Produce (Raffia) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(26) Liquor (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(27) Sherbro Judicial District (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(28) Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

(29) General Minerals (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1931.

(30) Public Health (Protectorate) (Amendment) Rules, 1931.

266. *Proclamations.*—The following Proclamations were made :—

(1) Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Amendment Order in Council, 1931 (Date of Commencement) Proclamation, 1931.

(2) Prorogation of Seventh Session of Legislative Council.

(3) Assembling of Eighth Session of Legislative Council.

(4) Alteration of time of Eighth Session of Legislative Council.

267. *Royal Orders in Council.*—The following Royal Order in Council was made :—

The Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Amendment Order in Council, 1931.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

268. The financial year closed on 31st December, 1931, showing the state of the year's working and the financial position of the Colony to be as follows :—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1931		101,308
Revenue 1931	884,153	
Expenditure 1931	884,008	
Surplus Revenue over Expenditure		145
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1931		£101,453

269. The revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1927	719,637	754,610
1928	826,319	815,374
1929	740,646	871,086
1930	742,972	805,725
1931	884,153	884,008

Note.—The above figures do not include the revenue and expenditure of the railway, but expenditure includes the loss on working of the railway.

Revenue includes £76,862 13s. 6d. re-imbursement from Domestic Loan in 1930 and £150,155 in 1931.

The figures for 1931 revenue and expenditure include the loan of £180,000 from the Colonial Development Fund and paid to the Sierra Leone Development Company in respect of the Marampa Iron Ore Concessions.

Debt.

270. The funded debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1931, was £2,141,273, against which the accumulations to the sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £507,223 (market value). The cost price of the Sinking Fund Investments is £549,337.

Assets.

271. The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1931, amounted to £401,882 as follows :—

	£
Investments	296,369
Stores	27,514
Loans (City Council and Railway)	52.141
Sundry Debtors	14,955
Cash	10,903

Taxation.

272. The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1931 were :—

	£
Customs	339,337
Port Harbour and Light	12,469
Licences and Internal Revenue	15,467
House Tax	79,986

Customs Tariff Imports.

273. An *ad valorem* duty of 12½ per cent is levied on all edibles, provisions, and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, excepting a few imports of this nature bearing a specific duty, the more important of which are sugar, 9s. 4d. per cwt. ; tea, 4d. per lb. ; salt, table, 1s. 10d. per 100 lb. ; lard, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. ; flour, 1s. 2d. per cwt. ; dried, salted, smoked, and pickled fish, 3s. per 100 lb. ; beef and pork, pickled and salted, 4s. 2d. per 100 lb. ; onions and potatoes, ½d. per lb.

274. On wares and merchandise (including cotton piece-goods) is levied an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent excluding a number of imports subject to specific duty. The main items subject thereto are :—bags, 8s. 4d. per 100 ; candles, 10s. per 100 lb. ; cement, 1s. 1d. per 400 lb. (gross) ; corrugated iron sheets, £4 2s. 8d. a ton ; paint, etc., 5s. per 100 lb.

275. On fuel oil is levied a duty of 4d. per gallon ; kerosene, 9d. per gallon ; lubricating oil, 9d. per gallon ; and motor spirit, 8d. per gallon.

276. Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 6d. per lb., manufactured tobacco 6s. per lb., cigarettes 2s. per 100 or 8s. per lb. over 4¼ oz. per 100.

277. On spirits (50 per cent volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per gallon, and on wines from 4s. 6d. to 8s. a gallon ; beer and ale, stout and porter are liable to 1s. 6d. duty per bulk gallon.

Export Duties.

278. The following exports are subject to duty :—palm kernels, 30s. a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

279. A royalty of 5 per cent is levied on gold, platinum, and diamonds exported.

Preference.

280. There were no preferential duties in 1931. As to this see the last paragraph of Chapter VII.

Drawbacks.

281. The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wine, spirits, kerosene, tobacco, arms and ammunition, and gunpowder are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

282. Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1931 amounted to £701.

283. There are no Excise duties but revenue is derived from licences as follows :—

Auctioneer, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.

Pawnbroker, bicycle, shopkeepers, hotel, and professional licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

284. A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native Chiefs are responsible, and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House tax in Freetown and the Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

CHAPTER XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

285. The financial situation necessitated the retrenchment of 10 more surveyors, for some of whom unofficial employment has however been found. During the year the Department was reduced to three Europeans and 22 Africans, inclusive of Headquarters Clerical Staff.

286. *Topographical Survey.*—Further reproduction was suspended for a similar reason. Of the 109 " one-inch " sheets, 44 only have been published. Provision has, however, been made for the preparation and issue, on demand, of unpublished sheets in sunprint form. Revision work has also been suspended.

287. *Cadastral Branch.*—Fifteen mining surveys were executed during the year and realized £726 in revenue (£129 remaining to be collected). Surveys in connexion with land acquisition and leases were also carried out, and good progress made in detail survey on existing framework in the vicinity of Freetown.

288. The Drawing Office has been very fully employed. Apart from other work the map of the Protectorate (1/500,000), a reduction from the topographical sheets, was completed and issued in sunprint form. Arrangements were made for the reproduction of this work by the War Office.

289. *Lands Branch.*—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out satisfactorily.

290. A scheme (based on a report by Sir Ernest Dowson, K.B.E., and Mr. C. L. O. Sheppard, C.B.E., two leading experts on land registration) has been put forward for transferring the present registration service to the Lands Office and for introducing Compulsory Registration of Deeds, convertible in due course into Registration of Title in Law.

291. *General.*—The value of maps supplied to Government Departments during the year amounted to £108. Sales to the public realized £166.

Geological Survey.

292. During 1931 the Department continued actively the investigation of the geology and mineral resources of Sierra Leone.

293. Reconnaissances were made in the two Provinces and the schists belts of the Upper Loko Hills, hills east of Bumbuna, Gori Hills, the Port Loko District, the Marampa haematite deposits and the gabbro hills of the Colony were further examined in greater detail.

294. A number of rocks were examined and analyses made of several mineral samples.

295. The work done during the year on the platinum and ilmenite occurrences in the Colony confirms the opinion that the intrusion forming the hills is made up chiefly of well banded medium grained gabbros and norites—olivine bearing types appear to be in excess of olivine free anorthosite and anorthosite gabbro. The largest mass extends continuously from near No. 2 to beyond the Whale River. In the vicinity of the road from York to Waterloo the anorthosite appears to be at least 1,000 feet thick and to have a dip of

10°-15° towards the coast. Alluvial platinum occurs in all the streams cutting across the anorthosite mass, but the source of the platinum has not yet been found. The platinum in the Big Water is intimately associated with ilmenite, and it is possible that the alluvial platinum has been derived from the blebs and lenticles of ilmenite which are scattered through the anorthosite.

296. Rutile is widely distributed in small quantities in the streams draining that part of the eastern margin of the belt of older crystalline gneisses and schists which lies between the Great Scarcies River to the north and the Mabole River to the south.

297. Two diamonds of good quality and weighing 0.22 and 0.55 carats, respectively, were discovered in the gravels of the Kenja River near the town of Pava, four miles to the east of Kenema.

298. This discovery, together with that in the Nimi Koro chiefdom of Kono District, is now being actively prospected and the results to date are fairly promising. A high percentage of the stones are of a fine white colour and are of gem quality, and the stones are larger than the usual run of West African diamonds.

299. The Tonkolili iron ores are a bedded deposit of haematite consisting of four beds, the largest extending about 15 miles, with an average width of 1,000 feet. The beds stand almost vertically, inter-bedded between sand-stones, quartzites, and amphibolitic lavas. The regions with the greatest amount of visible ore are, first, the Numbara Hill deposit with its extension up the Waka valley to the headquarters of the Waka stream, and next the Soukoya region and the region due east of Kegbema. The deposits are of unusual interest geologically, and in size represent one of the great iron ore reserves of the world.

Imperial Institute—Public Exhibition Galleries.

300. Samples of oil palm products were lent for use at the International Colonial Exhibition in Paris. A collection of West African products, including those of Sierra Leone, was also lent to the Church Missionary Society for an exhibition in London.

301. Photographs of Sierra Leone scenery and industries have been used in the new series of picture postcards recently issued by the Imperial Institute.

302. Labels and charts relating to the exhibits in the Court have been revised and brought up to date where necessary.

303. Lectures to organized parties from schools have been continued, also the distribution of samples of products, literature, and postcards.

304. The public attendance in the Galleries during the year was 732,455, including 2,634 organized school parties.

APPENDIX.

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

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Blue Book, 1929 and 1930, each	0	12	6	1	2
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Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent Numbers, each	0	0	6	0	2
The Handbook of Sierra Leone	0	10	6	0	8
Sierra Leone Studies (Abridged Edition) of Nos. 1, 2 and 3	0	1	0	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies, No. 6	0	0	6	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7 to 17, each	0	1	0	0	2
Handbook of the Temne Language	0	5	0	0	3½

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	0	10	6	0	3
Handbook on the Tsetse Fly (Austen)	0	5	0	0	3
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by H. C. Luke, C.M.G.	0	8	6	0	4
Report on the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone ...	0	1	6	0	2
Beriberi and the Freetown Prison	0	10	6	—	
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vols. I and II, by D. A. Bannerman, each	1	2	6	*1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville	0	2	6	0	1½

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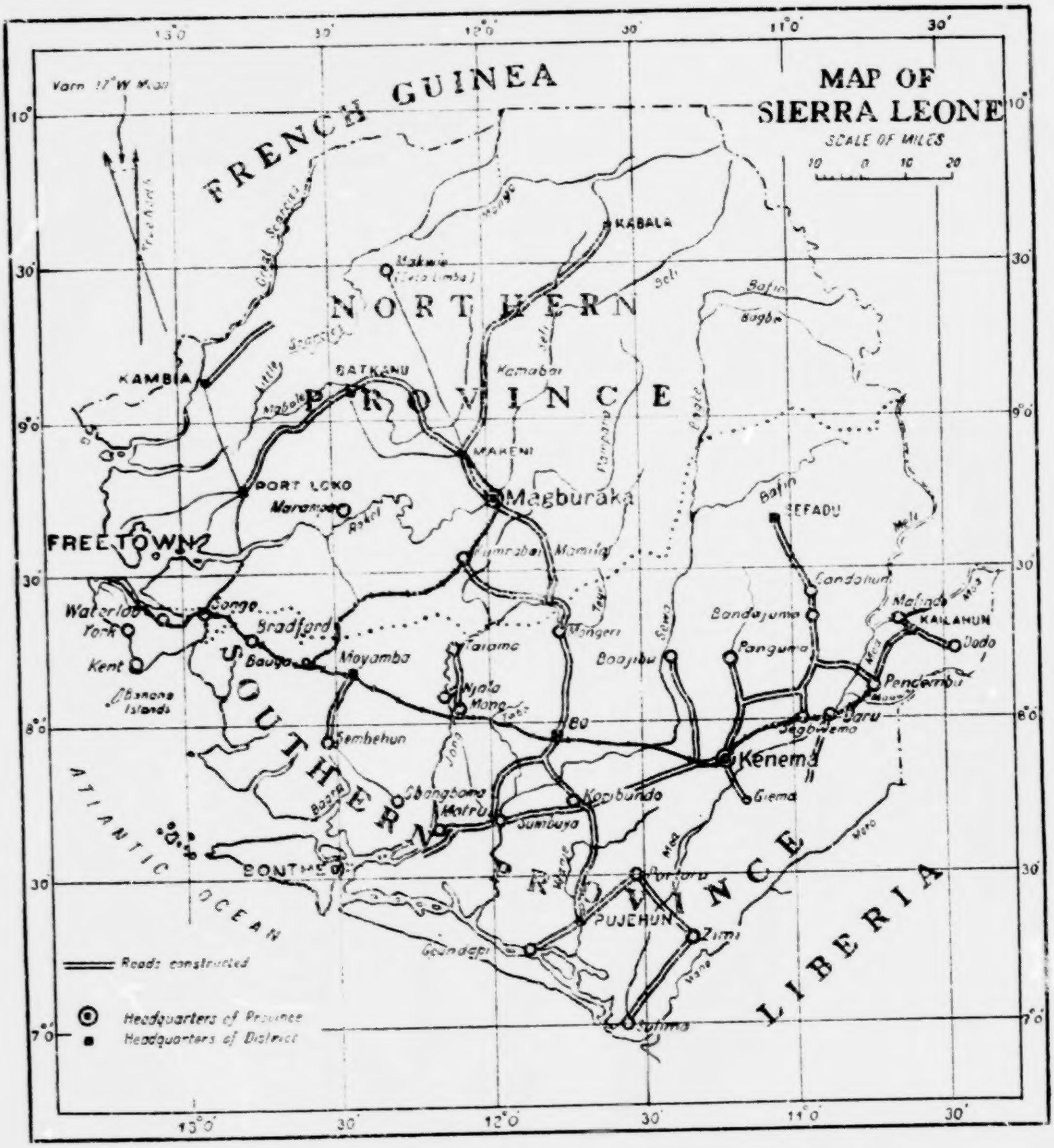
MAP OF
SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
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FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
KAMBIA
KABALA
BATKANU
MAKENI
Magburaka
PORT LOKO
Maramps
FREETOWN
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
Moyamba
Taiama
Njala
Mano
Mangeri
Boajibu
Bo
Sembehun
Gbangbama
Mattru
Sumbuya
Koribundo
BONTHE
PUJEHUN
Potoru
Zimi
Sulima
Gbandapi
Kenema
Giema
Segbwema
Daru
Pendembu
KAILAHUN
Dodo
Mafindo
Bandajuma
Panguma
Candahun
SEFADU
Kamabai
Rokel
Mamilaf
Sela
Bafin
Bagbe
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Moa
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SIERRA LEONE, 1932

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe in Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 260 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorage close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,665 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If we except the mountainous peninsula, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be generally described as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northward to more open or " orchard bush " country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced toward the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly " Harmattan " wind usually blows at intervals during the December-February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed to carry down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average maximum and minimum may be placed at 87° and 74° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. July and August are as a rule the wettest months. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level.

History.

Seirra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons —originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were transported to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the "Liberated Africans" who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with a view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but, owing to reports as to connivance with slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually, a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement; and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful, apart from some minor disturbances caused by the fanatic Mohammedan missionary, Idara, early in 1931.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely the officers performing for the time being the duties of Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce.

The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be reappointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though, as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was receded to the Chiefs and people.

Colony.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro

Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is comprised within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown,

(2) The Headquarters Judicial District,

(3) The Bonthe District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

This District which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown and one on Tasso Island have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes which they represent who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioners of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

Tribal Headmen.—Five native tribes in Waterloo possess Tribal Headmen, with powers similar to those in Freetown.

Bonthe District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island and the Turtle Islands and of York Island and of the four following chiefdoms on the mainland—viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters District of the Colony. The District Commissioner is assisted by three Tribal Headmen.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

Protectorate.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

Until 1920 it was, for political purposes, divided into five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Ronietta, Panguma, and Bandajuma. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three Provinces, designated respectively: the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely, the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of those two Provinces;
(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and
(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each District is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambakka Yobanji in the Karene District to the smallness of Yaba. Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e., from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially, length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and disinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any " palaver " which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of the Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature : administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax, and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirits, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of a Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaol; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 is 96,422, the racial distribution being as follows :—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes ...	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans.	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives ...	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate is 1,672,057, of which 796,391 are males and 875,666 are females, and consists of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics, and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate is 231, of which 173 are males and 58 are females. Of this total 142 are British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which are included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate is 772—577 males and 195 females. These include 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate number 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These include Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans number 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro ...	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	608	5,219	5,827	0·33
Totals	95,739	1,671,055	1,766,794	

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population is as follows :—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population				1,766,613

Migration.

Unfortunately complete records of immigration and emigration are not available. Registration merely of persons entering and leaving the Colony by sea is kept but no check whatsoever is kept of persons travelling to and from the Protectorate.

Of the immigrant population, Syrians are the most important element and now form a considerable community. They come solely for the purposes of trade. During 1932 the registers show that 45 Syrians entered the Colony by sea, and 67 departures are recorded.

The European population consists of Government officials, traders, mercantile agents, mining company employees, and missionaries coming and going frequently between the Colony, Protectorate, and Europe.

With reference to the African population there is a constant flow between the Colony and Protectorate and various African colonies. The only reliable figures for migration are those relating to the Syrians.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for births and deaths for the Colony for 1932 are as follows :—

(*a*) **Births—**

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
1,198	1,241	2,439	25·29

(*b*) **Deaths—**

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
1,255	1,149	2,404	24·93

No figures are available for births and deaths for the Protectorate, registration not being compulsory.

Infant Mortality.—The following are the figures for infant mortality for the Colony for 1932 :—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000 births.*
291	276	567	232·74

No figures for infant mortality are available for the Protectorate for the same reason as given in the previous paragraph.

Comparison with last census.—It will be seen that the more effective registration of births has eradicated the disproportion between births and deaths figures which formerly existed. With the present data available it is possible to publish only crude rates. The more accurate registration of births reduced the infantile mortality rate from 264.6 to 232.74 but it is not seriously contended that these figures indicate any real improvement which might be ascribed to the ante-natal and infant welfare activities.

The last decennial census (1931) gave a total of 1,672,057 persons in the Protectorate as compared with 1,456,148 in 1921. The difference must be taken as an actual increase due to natural increment and not to migratory or other causes.

Marriages.

The number of marriages as shown by the registers for 1932 are :—

	Freetown.	*Village areas (Colony).*	*Headquarters District (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Total.*
Christian ...	137	28	8	4	177
Mohammedan ...	27	—	—	—	27
Totals ...	164	28	8	4	204

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate, of which 29 were recorded as having taken place in 1932. Mohammedan marriages and those by " Native Custom " are not registered.

Occupations.

The figures in the following paragraph are obtained from the census taken in 1931 :—

> Of the total population of 96,422 persons in the Colony, only 60,954, or 63.2 per cent. are returned as having occupations. This number has been returned as following some stated occupation or in the habit of following that occupation, but it can only be assumed and not definitely stated that they are earners or gainfully occupied; the remainder, 35,468, are returned as " no occupation ", " dependants ", " attending school ", " other children ", and " pensioners ". Of the total occupied persons 61.1 per cent. are males and 38.9 per cent. females. Of the total male population 70.9 per cent. are occupied and of the females 54.1 per cent.

The following table shows the classes of occupation (percentages only) in 1931, by comparison with 1921 :—

Occupation.	1921 *Percentage.*	1931 *Percentage.*
Agriculture	15.1	13.1
Fishing		2.1
Commerce and banking (including petty trade)	43.1	21.1
Professions (including teaching and religious occupations)		0.8
Administrative and defence (including soldiers)		1.7
Skilled trades and occupations ...		7.0
Miscellaneous		2.5
Labourers and servants	9.1	7.2
No occupation, children, dependants, etc.	32.7	34.5

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

The appended list shows in tabular form the main diseases treated at the Government institutions in Colony and Protectorate in 1931 and 1932; it does not include cases treated in Mission hospitals and dispensaries, and cannot be taken as an accurate statement of the morbidity of the general population, the great majority of whom but seldom come under the influence of European medical care. There has been a general drop in the incidence of systemic diseases and the figures for yaws and malaria show a decrease when compared with 1931. The increase in respiratory diseases can easily be ascribed to the effect of the heavy and continuous rainfall experienced in 1932.

Venereal diseases are common, though the returns of cases treated cannot be taken as an index of the prevalence of the disease, nor can the yearly comparative figures be accepted to indicate the annual fluctuation; the African comes for treatment of venereal diseases only when sorely distressed.

There are at present no major industrial undertakings; agriculture is still the main occupation and is associated with skeletal and muscular affections, arthritis, chronic rheumatism, etc. All the mining industries now commencing are above ground, and thus, apart from the "agglomeration diseases", i.e., the ill-defined enteric group, the dysenteries, etc., which are apt to occur in tropical countries where large numbers of people not supplied with pipe-borne water supplies and sewage services are grouped together; no increased incidence of occupational diseases is to be expected.

Disease.	1931.	1932.
Malaria	6,520	4,857
Yaws	7,449	5,891
Acute rheumatism	502	733
Chronic rheumatism	5,081	4,529
Hemiplegia	123	89
Conjunctivitis	949	829
Affections of the ear	860	860
Haemorrhoids	121	116
Lymphadenitis, bubo (non-specific) ...	485	536
Coryza	884	552
Acute bronchitis	4,186	5,326
Chronic Bronchitis	4,213	3,461
Asthma	143	162

Disease.	1931.	1932.
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	4,169	1,400
Gastritis	394	389
Dyspepsia	3,495	3,603
Diarrhoea and enteritis	960	908
Ankylostomiasis	84	185
Hernia	479	689
Constipation	9,253	8,251
Acute nephritis	95	53
Schistosomiasis	17	59
Epididymitis	40	33
Orchitis	209	225
Hydrocele	210	287
Abscess	512	577
Scabies	761	1,091
Eczema	428	221
Osteitis	331	291
Arthritis	1,437	1,616
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,054	1,049
Fracture	149	159
Other external injuries	4,397	3,948
Asthenia	838	591
Syphilis	592	388
Gonorrhoea	2,366	2,114

Mortality.

The figures as to the causes of deaths registered are not very accurate, and cannot even be considered as such until a system of medical certification of death is compulsory: at present in Freetown all non-certified deaths are personally investigated by the Medical Officer of Health (who is also Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths) and from the information given an approximate diagnosis is made; in cases of doubt, or on the slightest suspicion of infectious disease, a post mortem is made: it is impossible to enforce medical certification of death while the country is in its present stage of development.

Appended is a list showing the principal causes of deaths as registered. The deaths as registered in Freetown are an approximate statement of the mortality cause. It will be noticed that while the number of deaths is fairly constant, e.g., 1,380 in 1931—1,400 in 1932, malaria and respiratory diseases have decreased as causes of death from 43 per cent. to 27 per cent. approximately; that deaths from the dystenteries and heart disease are fairly constant.

Principal Causes of Deaths, 1932.

Causes.	*Freetown (including Clinetown)* 1,400.		*Colony (excluding Freetown)* 1,004.		**Protectorate* 185.	
	No.	*Percentage.*	*No.*	*Percentage.*	*No.*	*Percentage.*
Malaria	194	13·85	119	11·85	17	9·18
Bronchitis and pneumonia	192	13·71	97	9·66	28	15·13
Heart disease	86	6·14	79	7·86	19	10·27
Premature birth ...	77	5·5	7	·69	1	·54
Infantile convulsions ...	58	4·14	52	5·17	5	2·7
Dysentery, diarrhoea, and enteritis.	95	6·78	88	8·76	36	19·46
Nephritis	40	2·85	6	·59	—	—
Tuberculosis, all forms...	36	2·56	32	3·99	1	·54
Debility	20	1·42	28	2·78	—	—
Septicaemia	16	1·14	13	1·29	—	—
Whooping-cough ...	16	1·14	50	4·98	5	2·7
Abdominal disease ...	12	·85	48	4·78	7	3·78

* Registration of death is compulsory only on non-natives of the Protectorate.

Provision for Treatment.

Colony.—There are two general hospitals maintained by Government in the Colony, the Connaught Hospital at Freetown and the Colonial Hospital at Bonthe. There is also a hospital maintained by the Church Missionary Society in Freetown, the figures for which are not available.

The figures of attendance at the Connaught and Bonthe Hospitals are as follows :—

	1931.	1932.
Connaught Hospital—		
In-patients	2,246	2,632
Out-patients—new cases	10,583	12,019
Subsequent attendances	50,059	55,198
Operations	1,410	1,913
Bonthe Hospital—		
In-patients	359	400
Out-patients—new cases	2,078	3,624
Subsequent attendances	17,901	18,094

The figures in all cases exceed those of 1931, and indicate not a greater morbidity, but rather a greater use of the services available.

Protectorate.—There are three permanent hospitals in the Protectorate at Dara, Bo, and Makeni, the last two being type hospitals which are to be extended to other towns as it becomes possible financially. There are in addition four hospitals of native construction and three conducted by Medical Missions. These are subsidized by Government and employ qualified medical men and nurses.

The figures of attendance at the two type hospitals are as follows. It will be seen that the figures for Bo all show an increase, while the "subsequent attendance" figures for Makeni show a welcome increase, indicating, as they do, the patients' appreciation of the benefit of the treatment received :—

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Southern Province.

	1931.	1932.
In-patients	105	249
Out-patients—new cases	2,035	2,073
Subsequent attendances	12,136	17,708

Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province.

	1931.	1932.
In-patients	213	271
Out-patients—new cases	2,900	1,936
Subsequent attendances	13,829	21,817

Dispensaries.—These are situated in the Colony villages and in towns in the Protectorate not served by Medical Officers. They are conducted by dispensers who are trained as both druggists and nurses, and are visited regularly by the Medical Officer of the District. There are eight such dispensaries in the Colony, and nine in the Protectorate.

Nurses and Midwives.—Male and female nurses are trained at the Connaught Hospital, where a full course of lectures and practical training takes three years, with an examination at the end of each year. After training they are sent to the other hospitals and institutions. Midwives are trained at the Connaught Hospital maternity section and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital. An examination is conducted annually, with a high standard required for a pass, which entitles to registration as a midwife. Several of these are now in private practice, and are being increasingly employed by the public. Legislation will be effected in 1933 to place the practice of midwifery somewhat on a parallel with the conditions existing in Great Britain.

Child Welfare.—The work was well maintained in the Connaught Hospital and Campbell Street centres, but suffered at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital owing to the part-time absence of a Lady Medical Officer.

	Connaught Hospital and Campbell Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.
Ante-natal attendances	**2,829**	**3,009**	**1,383**	**1,435**
Labour cases admitted	**251**	**240**	**90**	**71**
Health visits	**3,798**	**3,650**	**4,457**	**2,998**
Infant-welfare clinic attendances	**7,833**	**9,723**	**10,779**	**9,096**

The immigrant natives from the Protectorate, who form the large majority of the inhabitants of Freetown and the Colony, come within the scope of the work of these institutions. The population of the Protectorate is for the most part rural and that of the more important towns is not large enough to justify the appointment of health visitors or the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres as separate institutions. Facilities are provided at the general hospitals and dispensaries already referred to, for those who wish to avail themselves.

The maternity and child welfare staff remain numerically as in 1931, since which time the Health Visitor, trained in England and possessing the London C.M.B., has taken up the duties of her office.

A non-certificated School Nurse, whose duties are interchangeable with those of the Health Visitor, is at present engaged in midwifery and gynaecological work.

Sanitation.

In last year's Report a general outline was given of the sanitary services provided for the Colony and Protectorate. These have been continued during the period under review. In the Colony, Freetown as the capital and chief port, and Bonthe as the second town and port, remain the centre of the Health Department's activities. In these ports a complete sanitary service is provided for dealing with house-to-house inspection, anti-mosquito measures, refuse disposal, conservancy, weeding and scavenging, food inspection, rat extermination, vaccination, and infectious diseases. In Freetown there is an excellent pipe-borne water supply, and here also facilities are available at the Wharf Disinfecting Station for dealing with passengers arriving at Sierra Leone from ports harbouring infectious diseases. The Public Health Ordinance has also been applied to six of the more important towns in the Colony.

During the year under review the resources of the Health Department were taxed to the utmost in dealing with a widespread epidemic of smallpox of a mild type which first became evident towards the end of February on the western seaboard of the Protectorate opposite Freetown, having been spread by traders from French Guinea through the districts of Kambia, Karene, Bombali, and Port Loko, in the Northern Province of the Protectorate, where cases were soon reported in fair numbers. Altogether, including a secondary focus in the Kailahun district, 939 cases were notified during the year with 17 deaths. On 20th February one case of virulent smallpox was discovered in a village near Freetown, and as a result of very thorough measures which were taken immediately for the protection of the port and shipping, only 12 indigenous cases occurred at Freetown. Vaccinations performed during the year numbered 75,483 at Freetown (population 55,359), where there is a large floating population; the total throughout the whole Colony and Protectorate numbering 133,446. It is hoped to maintain a figure of 50,000 vaccinations per annum until 1,500,000 have been done.

In the Protectorate, comprising almost 95 per cent. of the total population, the routine sanitary control of main towns by the Health Department has been continued. Under the Public Health Protectorate Ordinance, Sumbuya, Marampa, and Pepel were declared health areas, bringing the total number of these areas up to 36. The Public Health Protectorate Rules have been applied to all of them. These Rules make detailed provision for, *inter alia*, town planning and building regulations, protection of water supplies, drainage, disposal of refuse and nightsoil, clearing of bush, management of markets and slaughterhouses, food inspection, and the notification and control of epidemic diseases in men and animals. In addition, special rules were drawn up and applied to regulate the sale of meat and foodstuffs and to prevent overcrowding of dwelling houses at Marampa and Pepel. The European Chief Sanitary Superintendent was released from his duties at Freetown to supervise the lay-out of the new labour camps and villages adjacent to the Sierra Leone Development Company's mining concessions at these points; and the preliminary steps were completed for the declaration as health areas of the mining villages and camps of Maroc, Limited, at Makong, and Sierra Leone Goldfields, Limited, at Maranda.

Sanitary Inspectors are stationed at ten of the larger centres in the Protectorate, their duties including periodic visits to the neighbouring health areas for the purpose of making inspections and advising the Paramount Chiefs who are health authorities where no special Health Authority has been appointed. In seventeen of the health areas the Ordinance is administered by a special Health Authority consisting of the District Commissioner, the Medical Officer, the Paramount Chief, and one other member. Monthly sanitary reports are returned in the form of replies to a questionnaire based on the Health Rules.

As funds permitted, Government has provided pipe-borne water-supplies, or protection for the natural source; also markets, slaughterhouses, and incinerators. Many of the Chiefs are seeking the aid of the sanitary officers and in 1933 it is hoped to institute periodical European inspection of all health areas; by this means a definite advance in the appreciation of sanitary principles will be gained, even though financial depression might prevent the carrying out of permanent works to remedy the many defects elicited by such periodic inspections. As regards expenditure on major sanitary works, it is to be regretted that no further permanent advance can be envisaged until more prosperous and stable times are assured.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses on concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls and roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or native timber boarding and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class as a rule own their houses, but the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council whereby assistance may be given to owners of small houses to improve their dwellings is under consideration. The Health and Building Authorities endeavour, by means of inspection and the enforcement of City Improvement Regulations, to improve housing conditions.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Minerals.

The minerals mined were gold and platinum. All mineral won was exported. Prospecting continued for gold, platinum, diamonds, and chromite.

Gold.—Two companies were engaged in mining alluvial gold, and production increased each quarter :—

Quarter.	*Production unrefined gold bullion. Oz. troy.*	*Estimated value gold production.* £
1st	2,083	10,228
2nd	2,150	10,952
3rd	3,766	20,560
4th	4,126	24,115
	12,125	£65,855

The totals compare well with an output of 6,650 ounces the preceding year estimated to be worth £27,772.

During the year several new workable alluvial deposits were found and prospecting of the two lode outcrops was commenced.

Platinum.—Alluvial platinum is found in the Colony Peninsula. One company was engaged in mining the mineral. During the year the price fell gradually to £8 10s. per troy ounce refined.

Production and value were as follows :—

Quarter.	*Production coarse crude platinum. Oz. troy.*	*Estimated value.* £
1st	203	1,707
2nd	187	1,370
3rd	—	—
4th	137	1,041
	527	£4,118

Last year's production was 594 ounces valued at £3,093.

Diamonds.—The Consolidation African Selection Trust holds exclusive prospecting rights for diamonds over an area of more than 4,000 square miles. Part of this ground was explored with good results. In October the Trust exported 748 carats of diamond won in prospecting. The parcel was valued at £1,565. At the end of the year the Trust applied for a mining lease and for permission to start mining.

Iron.—The railway and works for the exploitation of the Marampa iron ore deposits neared completion so that the company concerned will be in a position to mine and ship iron ore early in 1933. Government is interested in this enterprise on account of a loan of £500,000 secured by debentures on the assets of the Sierra Leone Development Company.

The area in Koinadugu district which contains the Tonkolili iron ore deposits remained closed to prospecting pending the arrangement of a suitable scheme for their development. During the year further evidence of their magnitude, grade, and economic value accumulated.

Labour.—The mineral production is in the hands of the British mining companies and European and American engineers are in charge of operations. The natives of the country are employed as artisans, clerks, headmen, and labourers. There are no independent native operators. The contract, the daily wage, and the piece-rate systems of employing labour are all in operation.

In the goldfields the contract system is favoured. At four places mining is carried on by mechanical or semi-mechanical methods, but most gold mining is done in rock-bound channels and in shallow alluvium at the heads of small streams, suitable only for hard labour methods. The labour supply is plentiful and wages average about 1s. a day, although at certain places the labourer has the opportunity to earn up to 2s. a day.

Platinum mining is done at a daily wage, with bonuses on production.

Excluding gold mining, the mining enterprises pay a daily wage. The rates are 1s., 9d., 6d. a day, depending on the work. The native is eager to obtain light employment for an assured daily wage of 6d.

Mining is responsible indirectly for raising the standard of living of the Protectorate, bringing money and providing markets for produce in hitherto remote parts of the country. The mine labour compounds scattered about the country are examples of cleanliness, sanitation, and avoidance of overcrowding which set new standards for the people of the countryside.

" Health Areas " have been declared in the vicinity of the larger mining camps so that the Health Department can control housing and sanitation in the native villages.

An average of 1,768 natives were employed in mining, and 459 were directly engaged in prospecting. The number of labourers engaged in works connected with Marampa ranged between 700 and 1,800 during the year.

Agricultural Produce.

Food crops.—It is probable that the annual production of rice, the most important crop and chief food of the people, is about 200,000 tons of clean rice : a sound basis for building up an export industry in this product. It is important to realize, however, that cassava is a close second to rice in its necessity to the population as food; and that sweet potatoes, yams, millets, maize, groundnuts, and to a small extent other pulses, all help toward maintaining the food supply in times of seasonal shortage. Improvement and extension of rice are dealt with below. The efforts of the Deparement of Agriculture with the other food crops are chiefly concerned with reducing the present great losses of cassava through mosaic disease by replacing them with good, resistant kinds (which are eagerly taken up by the farmers), and encouraging the extended growing of the best kinds of the others, with efforts towards popularizing pulses, seriously neglected at present in the food economy of the native.

Cotton and tobacco are grown for local consumption only. Attempts to foster cotton-growing on a large scale have not been successful, but certain areas within the Northern Province seem to be suitable for tobacco, the cultivation of which has increased on account of the lack of money for buying the imported tobacco.

Export Crops.—The most important plant products collected or grown for export are palm kernels, palm oil, kola nuts, ginger, and piassava. Of these, palm kernels hold pride of place, as being this Colony's chief source of revenue at present. There is also now a good prospect of building up an export trade in rice.

The entire production of crops is in the hands of the individual native farmer, and a very large proportion of the population of the Protectorate devotes its energies to farming.

Instructional work and the improvement of crops and produce continue successfully through the efforts of the Agricultural Officers and Produce Inspectorate, served closely by the advisory work (economics, entomology, and mycology) under guidance from the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture. Among the more important features of the work were included the extension of the growing of swamp rice in inland swamps, especially in the Southern Province, oil palm and coffee planting, improvement and increased production of piassava, raffia production, and cultivation with the plough (in the Northern Province).

Rice.—Toward the end of the year an Agricultural Officer was posted specially in the Scarcies region to advance rice production in this very promising area and to carry out trials for improvement in co-operation with farmers. The production of rice in inland swamps, with the aid of instruction and assistance in obtaining seed by the Agricultural Department, is now increasing rapidly under its own momentum.

Ginger.—The better and increased production of this old-established crop is being fostered by the Department by teaching methods of planting from nurseries (thus incidentally releasing for export an important proportion of the crop otherwise used for planting), growing it under light cassava shade, and by instruction for extension in new areas near the railway in the eastern districts.

Piassava.—Work for the improvement and extension of piassava production continues to be carried out by the Produce Inspection Branch of the Department in co-operation with field officers through the laying down of retting grounds in which demonstrations are carried out by the officers concerned and by native instructors. These efforts include a promising beginning of extension of production in line areas which (with ginger as shown already) should bring useful freight to the railway.

Coffee.—Robusta coffee, with its variety Canephora, is proving itself a successful crop for natives under the best test, the actual conditions of their farming. Now that farmers are dealt with individually and make their own nurseries, the demand for seed is keen and plantations are usually given reasonable care. Most of the areas now supply their own seed for new plantings and robusta coffee shows every sign of becoming a native crop of the first importance, which will assist rice, ginger, cacao to a smaller extent, and other crops that are under trial, to lessen the dependence of the country's prosperity on the collection of forest products.

Fruit Production.—Investigations with the assistance of an importing firm in London have shown that the oranges produced in important quantity in the Colony are acceptable to the English market, but that for the ready disposal of them colouring is necessary: a matter that is receiving attention. This, together with the circumstance that a first-class grapefruit is already produced by the Agricultural Department, is regarded as a basis for building up a fruit industry for the Colony.

Live Stock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the live stock of this country. Cattle-farming is carried out on a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) are imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country, and pigs to a small extent. There are a few horses, the majority of which again come from French territory. The value of the exports in hides (mainly untanned) amounted in 1931 to £1,689.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during 1932 amounted to £1,248,346 as compared with £1,141,611 in 1931, being an increase of £106,735.

The following tables show the value of imports by classes during the past two years:—

	1931. £	1932. £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Commercial imports	928,009	1,182,134	254,125	—
Government imports	63,111	37,504	—	25,607
Specie	150,491	28,708	—	121,783
Total ...	£1,141,611	£1,248,346	254,125	147,390
			Net increase £106,735	

	1931. £	1932. £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Class I—Food, drink, and tobacco	239,817	247,463	7,646	—
Class II—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	111,037	52,480	—	58,557
Class III—Articles mainly manufactured.	639,021	886,585	247,564	—
Class IV—Miscellaneous	1,178	33,060	31,882	—
Class V—Bullion and specie ...	150,558	28,758	—	121,800
Total	£1,141,611	£1,248,346	287,092	180,357
			Net increase £106,735	

With the exception of Class II and Class V, which show a decrease on the previous year of £58,557 and £121,800 respectively, a marked increase in the other classes is recorded. In Class I, the following articles are mainly responsible for the increase of £7,646 : unmanufactured tobacco £16,322 (269,645 lb.); beer and ale £3,505 (11,232 gallons); and common salt £3,120 (130 tons). The following articles recorded a decrease : flour £3,805 (10,295 cwt.); rice £1,680 (3,120 cwt.); butter £1,474 (68 cwt.); aerated and mineral waters £1,026 (3,487 dozen bottles); wines £1,478 (14,249 gallons); sugar £1,919 (1,934 cwt.); gin £1,105 (3,356 gallons); whisky £968 (911 gallons).

Class II. There was a decrease of £58,557 in the value of raw materials imported. This decrease is mainly attributable to the fact that fuel, illuminating and lubricating oils and motor spirit, the total value of which was £55,528, are now posted under Class III. Imports of coal fell by 7,557 tons and in value £12,978; Government imports decreased by 5,154 tons valued at £8,940. Stagnation in the building trade was reflected in a fall in lumber of 360,890 superficial feet, valued at £5,920.

Class III, in which is recorded the greatest increase during the year, advanced in value from £639,021 in 1931 to £886,585 in 1932. As the result of a general improvement in trade throughout the year the majority of items in this Class recorded an increase, particularly in regard to articles of clothing. An increase of £141,218 was recorded in cotton piece-goods; cottons unenumerated £27,400; motor spirit £7,585 (86,061 gallons); illuminating oil £7,031 (97,516 gallons); apparel £4,952; silk and art silk manufactures £4,243; metals, other kinds (except cutlery and tools) £4,143; bags and sacks £3,842; perfumery £3,316; buckets, pails and basins £3,120; hats and caps £2,238; beads other than real coral £2,144; and tin manufactures £2,041.

The following articles recorded a decrease : electrical and telegraphic apparatus £10,122; ships and boats mechanically propelled £4,032; other kinds £11,519; boots and shoes, leather, £9,141; cement £4,094; motor cars £3,504; motor car parts £2,040; musical instruments, other kinds £1,914; and implements and tools, artisans, £1,552.

The following table shows the commercial imports of cotton piece-goods for home consumption during the years 1928 to 1932 :—

Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Duty obtained.*
	sq. yds.	£	£
1928	8,496,607	309,701	57,416
1929	5,837,797	204,926	37,042
1930	5,132,718	156,556	28,947
1931	5,014,822	121,960	22,302
1932	11,169,367	262,959	48,651

The figures relating to other cotton goods were :—

Year.	*Value.*	*Duty obtained.*
	£	£
1928	138,583	25,167
1929	97,157	17,235
1930	66,823	12,013
1931	39,589	6,846
1932	67,187	12,368

Countries from which Commodities come.

The principal items of import from the United Kingdom were cotton piece-goods, 10,147,413 square yards (£230,460) ; cotton other, £57,428 ; machinery, £52,714 ; coal, £40,188 (28,543 tons) ; metals, other kinds, £103,606 ; beer and ale, £11,919 (56,743 gallons) ; hats and caps, £4,592 ; bags and sacks, £13,785 ; boots and shoes, £6,269 ; cement, £11,980 (4,087 tons) ; salt, £13,659 (2,736 tons) ; silk and art silk piece-goods, £12,212 ; motor vehicles, £12,393 ; whisky, £5,117 (4,193 gallons) ; motor car parts, £1,137 ; tin manufactures, £3,406 ; soap, £5,852 (2,348 cwt.) ; corrugated iron sheets, £6,381 (462 tons) ; cordage and twine, £2,475 ; medicines and drugs, £11,492 ; stationery, other than paper, £7,041 ; perfumery, £4,601 ; milk, £3,016 (927 cwt.) ; edible oils, £3,438 (105 tons) ; apparel, £24,875 ; cigarettes, £13,231 (41,376 lb.) ; sugar, £3,120 (3,806 cwt.) ; chemicals, other kinds, £3,624 ; and buckets, pails, and basins, £3,933 (11,703 dozen).

The United States of America supplied unmanufactured tobacco, £56,888 (1,177,686 lb.) ; kerosene, £20,789 (330,847 gallons) ; motor spirit, £21,129 (360,733 gallons) ; lubricating oil, £4,606 (36,745 gallons) ; fuel oil £3,337 (91,227 gallons) ; lumber, £3,424 (226,369 superficial feet) ; flour, £8,884 (11,635 cwt.) ; sugar, £2,632 (2,967 cwt.) and lard £1,295 (306 cwt.).

British possessions (other than West African) provided flour, £11,016 (15,122 cwt.) ; unmanufactured tobacco, £2,059 (42,665 lb.) ; and lumber, £1,422 (129,009 superficial feet) which were shipped from Canada, and cotton piece-goods £17,442 (397,114 square yards) ; and bags and sacks, £12,790 from India.

The chief imports from France were wines £3,320 (15,286 gallons) ; brandy, £1,755 (1,099 gallons) ; silk and art silk piece-goods, £3,001 ; and perfumed spirits, £1,398 (363 gallons).

Apparel £13,629, boots and shoes, other than leather, £3,627 (52,684 pairs) ; and silk piece-goods £2,262 (91,200 square yards) were received from Japan.

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony increased from £923,613 in 1931 to £932,773. A considerable increase, £262,087, was recorded in the value of domestic exports. Re-exports of specie decreased by £198,300, and of other goods by £9,949. Re-exports of coal which in 1931 recorded a value of £44,678 are no longer included in the export tables of the Colony. The decrease in the re-exports of other goods is also attributable to the fact that the value of ships' stores is no longer included in the value of re-exports from the Colony. Exports are valued as they lie on the exporting ship, such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following table is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1931 and 1932:—

		1931.		1932.	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£
Benniseed	tons	83	752	120	1,122
Cocoa, raw	tons	61	1,034	81	1,295
Diamonds	carat	—	—	748	1,497
Ginger...	cwt.	38,532	32,518	27,639	22,877
Hides	lb.	69,262	1,689	60,802	1,219
Kola nuts	cwt.	31,680	47,847	41,708	41,373
Palm kernels	tons	54,462	449,742	77,162	687,477
Palm oil	tons	1,359	19,830	2,208	26,914
Peppers	lb.	28,573	552	150,273	2,162
Piassava	tons	3,150	31,846	2,877	23,290
Platinum	oz.	590	2,946	494	4,492
Rice	tons	177	1,596	554	4,054
Gold	oz.	6,265	21,672	12,247	58,917

Palm Kernels.—The export of palm kernels, although the home market price showed but a slight improvement on that of 1931, was the largest on record and an increase on the previous year's figure of 22,700 tons, or 41.68 per cent., the total quantity shipped being 77,162 tons. In value, an increase of £237,735 was recorded, the total value being £687,477 as against £449,742 in 1931. The home market price fluctuated slightly during the year and averaged throughout approximately £11 1s. per ton. In January the price paid was £11 16s. 10d. per ton, a decrease of 8s. 10d. on the figure quoted in December of the previous year. Following an increase of £1 2s. a ton in February the price gradually dropped to £9 19s. 9d. in June. In July, however, the price advanced 10s., a further slight improvement being recorded until the end of the year, when £11 a ton was offered. The bulk of the kernels shipped was purchased on the Continent, Germany alone appropriating 33,896 tons as against 31,864 tons in 1931, an increase of 2,032 tons or 6.38 per cent. Exports to the United Kingdom advanced from 12,676 tons to 24,690—an increase of 12,014 tons or 94.78 per cent.

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the past five years :—

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1928	67,105	1,150,649
1929	60,205	876,308
1930	56,641	664,591
1931	54,462	449,742
1932	77,162	687,477

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 2,208 tons, valued at £26,914, as against 1,359 tons, valued at £19,830, in 1931. The bulk of this oil, as in previous years, went to the United Kingdom. The average European price per ton was £16 12s. 10d., a decrease of approximately £1 2s. 2d. on the price recorded in 1931.

Kola Nuts.—Shipments of kola nuts, the second most important article of domestic products, amounted to 41,708 cwt. as compared with 31,679 cwt. in 1931, and in value £41,373 as against £47,847. Shipments to Nigeria and the Gambia increased respectively by 4,955 cwt. and 4,549 cwt. The export of kolas to the Senegal was only 973 cwt. as compared with 1,230 cwt. in 1931. Competition from the French Ivory Coast, assisted by the heavy preferential tariff imposed by the French Government, is slowly but surely shutting out the Sierra Leone product from that market. The local price of kolas in 1932 ranged from 15s. in January to £1 1s. 6d. in December, and averaged throughout the year £1 3s. per measure (176 lb.)—a reduction of 1s. on the previous year's price.

Ginger.—The quantity exported, 27,639 cwt., was a decrease on the previous year of 10,893 cwt. The total value of ginger shipped was £22,877 as against £32,518 in 1931.

The United Kingdom purchased more than half of the ginger crop—14,281 cwt., valued at £11,921, followed by the United States of America with 11,827 cwt. of a value of £9,714. European prices averaged £1 3s. 5d. a cwt. as compared with £1 7s. 7d. in 1931.

Platinum.—Exports decreased from 590 oz. to 494 oz. in 1932, though an increase in value of £1,546 was recorded.

The total of platinum exported was £4,492 as against £2,946 in 1931.

Gold.—The export of raw gold increased from 6,265 oz. (troy), valued at £21,672, to 12,247 oz. (troy) of a value of £58,917. The total quantity of gold exported, as in the case of platinum, went to the United Kingdom.

Diamonds.—An initial shipment of diamonds was recorded, 748 carats, the declared value of which was £1,497. The shipment went to the United Kingdom.

Direction of Trade.

The following comparative table shows the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years:—

Year.	*Total imports less specie.*	*Re-exports less specie.*	*Net imports.*	*Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.*	*Excess of net imports over domestic exports.*	*Excess of domestic exports over net imports.*	*Customs duty on imports and exports.*	*Tonnage of shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1928 ...	**1,784,788**	**162,659**	**1,622,129**	**1,609,614**	**12,515**	—	**560,352**	**4,774,831**
1929 ...	**1,667,252**	**180,309**	**1,486,943**	**1,319,453**	**167,490**	—	**508,139**	**4,812,566**
1930 ...	**1,335,731**	**141,066**	**1,194,665**	**1,047,340**	**147,325**	—	**428,369**	**4,621,121**
1931 ...	**991,120**	**75,376**	**915,744**	**616,337**	**299,407**	—	**340,056**	**3,927,457**
1932 ...	**1,219,588**	**20,749**	**1,198,839**	**878,424**	**320,415**	—	**452,880**	**3,286,299**

The export figures for 1932 do not include shipments to the high seas.

Of the total import trade of £1,248,346 in 1932, the United Kingdom contributed £822,155, or 65.86 per cent, as compared with £1,141,611, or 63.31 per cent, in 1931. The United States of America accounted for £134,105, or 10.74 per cent, Germany came next in order with £65,338, or 5.23 per cent, while British possessions (other than West African) contributed £54,775, or 4.37 per cent, as compared with £7,981, or .70 per cent, in 1931. The increase in the latter was primarily due to imports of unmanufactured tobacco, flour, and lumber from Canada, and cotton piece-goods, and bags and sacks from India.

Of the gross export trade of £932,773, £370,356, or 39.70 per cent, went to the United Kingdom—a decrease on the previous year of 3.23 per cent, due entirely to an excessive shipment of specie in 1931 which unduly inflated the figures for that year. The total value of merchandise exported to the United Kingdom in 1932 was £277,839 as compared with £150,560 in 1931, or an increase of £127,279. £310,610, or 33.30 per cent, went to Germany, £151,810, or 16.28 per cent, to Holland, £55,150, or 5.91 per cent, to British West African possessions, and £28,787, or 3.09 per cent, to the United States of America.

The export of rice to the neighbouring British West African Colonies, to which reference was made in the 1931 Report, recorded an increase of 120 tons, and in value £960. The quantity shipped in 1932 was 276 tons, valued at £2,352.

Suggestions as to the Development of Trade within the Empire.

A preferential tariff was adopted on 30th April, 1932, and since its introduction there is every indication that trade with the British Empire has considerably improved. Importations of Australian champagne, United Kingdom matches and milk, Canadian flour, Indian sacks, and cigarettes manufactured from 100 per cent.

Empire tobacco, have been reported. Owing to the fact that a record of the country of origin of imports was not kept prior to 30th April, 1932, it is impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy from the Trade Returns of the Colony to what extent imports, which are the produce or manufacture of the British Empire, have increased.

An effort was made to introduce Canadian tobacco on the local market, but the leaf was not found suitable and difficulty was experienced in disposing of consignments. Full particulars as to the nature of the American leaf which has held the market for so long have been submitted to the proper authorities in the United Kingdom. The question of marketing Nyasaland tobacco in this Colony has recently been the subject of investigation and hopes are entertained that the Nyasaland leaf will before long find a market in Sierra Leone.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Artisans (Public Works).—In Freetown during 1932, Public Works Department artisans were paid from 3s. to 4s. per day for journeymen and from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per day for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at rates in excess of 4s. per day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d for improvers and 2s. 6d. to 4s. for journeymen. There has been a slight decrease in rates paid in the Protectorate as owing to the reduced volume of work it has been unnecessary to employ artisans from Freetown as in former years, these artisans requiring a higher rate of pay as an inducement to work in the Protectorate.

Labourers (Public Works).—In Freetown rates of pay for ordinary unskilled labour varied from 10d. to 1s. per day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates the maximum being 1s. 6d.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 6d. to 9d. per day, while the rates of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 1s. 3d. to 2s. per day.

Railway workers.—The following table gives the minimum, maximum, and average rates of pay of railway workers :—

Grade.	*Minimum.*	*Maximum.*	*Average rate per diem paid in 1932.*
Traffic—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Station porters	0 6	1 3	1 1
Pointsmen	1 3	2 0	1 7
Shunter pointsmen	1 6	3 0	2 6
Watchmen	0 6	2 0	0 11

Grade.	*Minimum.*		*Maximum.*		*Average rate per diem paid in* 1932.	
Traffic—	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Yard foremen	2	6	6	6	4	0
Telegraph messengers	—		—		0	11
Caretakers	0	6	1	3	0	10
Train porters	0	9	1	6	1	4
Trolley boys	1	0	1	6	1	4
Lampmen	0	9	2	0	1	3
Engineering—						
Timekeepers	2	9	6	6	4	1½
Artisans	2	6	10	0	3	2
Headmen	1	9	2	9	2	0
Telegraph linesmen	1	3	5	6	2	0
Telegraph labourers	1	0	1	9	1	1⅞
Labourers	0	6	1	3	0	11
Locomotive and carriage—						
Artisans	2	6	10	0	4	6
Gatemen	1	6	4	0	2	1
Storemen	2	9	6	6	4	0
Shops clerks	3	0	5	0	3	3
Tools clerks	1	3	6	6	2	6
Timekeepers	2	9	6	6	3	0
Brakesmen	0	9	1	6	1	0
Carriage cleaners	0	9	4	0	1	2
Coalmen	0	9	3	0	1	2
Strikers	1	3	2	6	1	2
Drivers (pumping and stationary engines)	1	3	4	0	2	3
Drivers (crane)	1	6	5	0	3	0
Engine cleaners	0	9	4	0	1	2
Greasers	1	3	4	0	1	8
Lighters-up	1	3	3	0	1	5
Pumpmen	0	9	1	6	1	0
Passed firemen	3	0	5	3	3	7
Firemen	1	9	2	6	2	0
Crane firemen	1	0	1	6	1	1
Washers-out	1	3	3	0	2	3
Labourers (skilled)	1	3	1	9	1	6
Labourers (unskilled)	0	6	1	3	1	1
Furnacemen	1	9	3	0	1	11
Painters	1	6	6	0	2	8
Apprentices	1	0	2	6	2	0
Holders up	1	3	2	6	1	8

The average rates paid during 1932 are rather lower than in the previous year owing to changes in staff. The standard rates are the same as were introduced in 1926.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Cost of living for labouring classes.—While the cost of living for officials rose slightly under increased taxation, that of the labourers fell substantially.

The staple food for labouring classes most nearly corresponding to the 4-lb. loaf is the " kettle " of rice but as rice is supplemented by " foo-foo " (cassava) to a greater or lesser extent according to the purchasing powers of the individual, it does not provide such a " yard-stick " as the 4-lb. loaf does in the United Kingdom. The present price of a kettle of rice (21 lb.) is 1s. 6d; a labourer's family of five will probably consume from 1½ to 2 kettles of rice per week.

The artisan's family will probably consume less rice but will substitute a larger amount of " foo-foo." Artisans also eat a certain amount of bread and fish.

The staple food-stuffs of the subordinate railway staff are, as for the labouring classes, rice, cassava, palm oil, etc. It may be taken that the average cost of living for the majority of the daily-wage staff (including labourers) is from 6d. to 8d. a day for themselves and family. More highly paid railway artisans, however, have a higher standard of living, as for other artisans.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

An Education Ordinance passed in 1929 provides a complete code for all Colony and Protectorate Schools. Separate Schedules of Rules which apply to the Colony and Protectorate respectively, differ in the important means of providing Government grants-in-aid.

In the Colony the schools are conducted by Boards of Managers as a result of the amalgamation of the Mission primary schools. The Managers are responsible for the upkeep of the school buildings, but the Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment in the primary schools. All school fees are paid into Government revenue.

The secondary schools on the Assisted List in the Colony receive capitation and equipment grants-in-aid. Grants are also paid to qualified teachers.

In the Protectorate, the assisted schools receive capitation, building, and equipment grants, but the salaries of the teachers are paid by the Mission authorities. Additional grants to qualified teachers in the Protectorate are paid by Government.

Colony Schools.—In the Colony there are at present 51 assisted primary schools with 7,068 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 5,075.

The secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows :—

Boys—6 schools with 171 primary, 297 preparatory, and 246 secondary pupils.

Girls—4 schools with 400 primary, 111 preparatory, and 115 secondary pupils.

Included in the boys' secondary schools is the Prince of Wales School, established and maintained entirely by Government. This school makes special provision for the teaching of science and for technical instruction, and is liberally equipped with laboratories and workshops.

There are also four assisted schools in the Colony providing technical training—the Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), the Diocesan Technical School (carpentry, surveying, and building construction), the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry and cabinet making) and the American Methodist Episcopal Girls' Industrial School (domestic science and arts).

With regard to the education of girls, domestic science in all its branches forms a most important part of their curriculum. A special examination is held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas are awarded to successful students. Provision is also made at the Roman Catholic Convent School for instruction in this subject to girls who have already left school and are contemplating marriage. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

Scholarships tenable at the Women Teachers' Training College at Wilberforce are awarded to girls from the secondary schools. The College is residential and is financed and largely controlled by Government.

Higher education for boys is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University. Arts, theological, and science courses are provided.

A separate course for the training of men teachers is also provided at the Fourah Bay College. Residential scholarships are awarded annually by Government, which also finances the scheme for teacher training.

Protectorate Schools.—In the Protectorate 11 missionary authorities conduct 86 assisted schools with 4,554 boys and 1,147 girls on the rolls. In addition, these bodies conduct 83 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 2,259 pupils.

The Government controls 9 boys' schools in the Protectorate with 407 pupils. These, with the exception of the Bo School and the Koyeima School, are rural schools of junior grades.

Bo School.—The Bo School was established by Government in 1906 for the education of the sons and nominees of chiefs. It aims at providing the boys with a liberal education in preparation for the important work they will probably be called upon to undertake in connexion with their chiefdoms. Hygiene and sanitation, town-planning, building, and hand and eye training are important parts of the curriculum.

Koyeima School.—The Central School at Koyeima is intended to provide education for Protectorate youths beyond that given in the primary schools. The school provides an adequate training in such technical subjects as woodwork, building, tailoring, woodcarving, surveying, town-planning, and agriculture, and will also, it is hoped, in time become the centre for the training of Protectorate teachers.

Music, etc.—The natives of Sierra Leone have a gift for music—both vocal and instrumental. Most of the large churches and chapels have pipe organs which are played by African organists. Many Africans, too, show skill on the pianoforte and other instruments. The band of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force, is an outstanding example of how far musical art can be developed.

A special music master has been engaged to teach singing on correct lines in the schools, and very good results have been achieved. Naturally, the children excel in rendering negro spirituals, but they have made great progress in music of a more classical nature. An annual singing competition has been inaugurated among the schools and this has been highly appreciated and the competition is very keen.

Dramatic art is being encouraged to some extent and the students of the secondary schools are proving apt pupils. This faculty is receiving attention and steps are being taken to concentrate on it at an early date.

Welfare Institutions.

There are no orphanages or Poor Law institutions in the Colony and Protectorate. Government, however, provides a certain sum yearly as a grant towards the relief of the poor in the Colony, which sum is disbursed by Charity Commissioners. In the Protectorate native customs demand that the poor and sick be looked after by the people of the chiefdom concerned.

As regards members of the native races living in the Colony, the Tribal Administration Ordinance empowers the Tribal Headmen to levy a small toll on the members of his tribe for the following objects, *inter alia*:—

(*a*) the relief of the poor and sick,

(*b*) the burial of the poor having no relatives at time of death,

(*c*) relief of any member of the tribe in distress.

There are also in existence many Friendly Societies whose object is the relief of the members in time of distress and death.

Mental Home.

There is a Mental Home at Kissy, about 5 miles from Freetown.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads; there is, however, a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road from Hill Station, two miles in length, affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 50 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 30 miles are motorable—the principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—A very considerable road programme has been carried out in the Protectorate during the last four years, and at the end of 1932—including approximately 250 miles completed previous to 1928—nearly 820 miles of motor roads had been completed. In general the Protectorate motor roads are 16 feet in width and are surfaced with laterite gravel. The majority of bridges are built of steel joists, with concrete abutments and piers, and timber decking. A number of timber bridges still remain, and these are being replaced as their condition requires and funds permit.

There are fourteen ferries in the Protectorate for transporting motor vehicles over the large rivers, in cases where the width of the river has rendered the construction of a bridge financially impracticable. The ferries consist of pontoons of steel or timber connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled carriage moving on steel cable-ways supported by steel towers on the banks. The pontoons are propelled across the river partly by the current and partly by steel wire hand-hauling lines, and at one ferry outboard petrol motors have been successfully adopted.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1932 was 311 miles; and the gauge 2 feet 6 inches.

Capital expenditure of the railway to 31st December, 1932, was £1,742,018.

The total revenue of the railway was £159,862, which shows an increase of £13,362 over the figure for the previous year. The depression in trade which manifested itself in 1930 continued throughout the year under review. The railway receipts were also appreciably depleted owing to the growth of road competition and to a general reduction in export rates. The revenue includes £1,183 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £217,694. This total includes £90,697 for loan charges, pensions, and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

Passenger journeys in the year were 408,149, an increase of 155,677 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 62,024 tons against 61,859 tons in 1931.

	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 3·44	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93
Working expenses per mile	5 1·09*	9 2·55	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86
Passengers carried ...	438,388	604,737	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	78,385	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles, and 314 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the Traffic Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of 6¼ miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, in the western seaboard of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1932 consisted of seven passenger vehicles and two goods lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 242,000 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,300:—

The staff employed was:—

Europeans	1
Africans	20
Total	21

Postal Business.

There was a further slight falling off in postal business during 1932 due to the continuance throughout the year of the depression in trade, although there was an actual increase in the estimated number of items of correspondence dealt with and in the amount of revenue derived from direct postal business. Postal business was conducted from 16 post offices and 57 postal agencies; money order business from 23 and postal order business from 61 offices.

The total revenue collected was £24,265 as against a sum of £22,503 the previous year. Of this amount £15,451 was derived from direct postal revenue, £6,536 from Customs duty on parcels, and £2,278 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds dealt with during the year was 1,922,147 as compared with 1,858,572 in 1931. Included therein are 86,932 registered articles.

Money order transactions decreased from 4,385 (value £30,502) in 1931 to 4,158 (value £27,931) in 1932.

The total number and value of postal orders issued during the year (47,735 and £30,154) and also the number and value of postal orders paid (39,330 and £26,259) showed increases on the corresponding figures for the previous year which were—orders issued 46,314, value £29,927, orders paid 38,549, value £25,940.

The parcel post transactions showed a slight falling off—33,220 parcels being handled as against 33,966 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (within Great Britain only), 8,154 parcels were received (value £14,681) as compared with 8,725 (value £16,413) in 1931.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo; this system is connected up by branches with most of the district headquarters in the Protectorate. The total mileage is 1,126¾ miles, plus the railway traffic control line of 455 miles.

A cable connects the island of Sherbro with the mainland.

Telephones.

The only service is that in Freetown and district, maintained by the Railway Department. The total mileage is 389½ miles.

Cables and Wireless.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to large numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short wave-lengths.

Shipping.

There was a net decrease of 89 in the number of vessels entering Sierra Leone during the year, and in tonnage of 317,234. Of a total of 1,646,453 tons of steam and motor vessels entered, 58.90 per cent was British, 9.93 per cent American, 9.51 per cent French, 8.75 per cent German, 4.94 per cent Italian, and 3.81 per cent Dutch. The following table gives details of nationality and tonnage entered during the year :—

Steam and Motor Vessels entered.

Nationality.	*Number.*	*Tonnage.*	*Percentage proportion to total tonnage.*
American	48	163,482	9·93
British	318	969,744	58·90
Danish	9	10,609	0·64
Dutch	26	62,850	3·81
Estonian	1	1,095	0·07
French	43	156,508	9·51
German	61	144,033	8·75
Italian	28	81,411	4·94
Norwegian	2	2,151	0·13
Spanish	10	18,558	1·13
Swedish	20	36,012	2·19
Totals	566	1,646,453	100·00

Of the above vessels 20 entered at Sherbro, 6 at Mano Salija, and 7 at Sulima.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports :—

Line.	*From*	*Frequency of calls.*
American West African Line ...	New York	Every 20 days with general cargo.
Elder Dempster and Company ...	United Kingdom ports.	Passengers fortnightly; cargo frequently.
do. do. ...	Continental ports ...	Fortnightly.
do. do. ...	Canada	Monthly.
Fabre-Fraissinet	Marseilles	Monthly.
Holland West African	Hamburg, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Passengers monthly; cargo monthly.
Navigazione Triestine Libera ...	Genoa, coast ports ...	Cargo monthly.
Woermann	Hamburg, Southampton and continental ports.	Passengers monthly.
do.	Hamburg, Amsterdam.	Cargo monthly.
United Africa Coy. Limited ...	Liverpool, coast ports.	Cargo monthly.

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes, and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about 4 tons. During recent years motor launches have come into use and this form of water transport appears to be growing increasingly popular with the natives.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony—Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima, and Mano Salija.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers saving bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with twenty agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1932, was £66,598 10s. 6d.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered, precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;
West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;
West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and
West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d. and ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metal of the same denominations and of the same standard weights, and authorized by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s. were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denominations were put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

The use of and the inspection of weights and measures in Sierra Leone are regulated by the Weights and Measures Ordinance (Cap. 233) and Rules made thereunder. The legal units employed are the pound avoirdupois, the gallon, the yard, and the square yard.

The Sierra Leone standards of weights and measures are:—

Length.—An imperial standard yard graduated to parts of one-eighth part of an inch.

Avoirdupois Weight.—112 lb. or 1 cwt., 56 lb. or ½ cwt., 28 lb. or 1 quarter, 14 lb. or 1 stone, 7 lb., 4 lb., 2 lb., 1 lb., ½ lb., ¼ lb., 1 oz., ½ oz., ¼ oz.

Measures of Capacity.—1 bushel, ½ bushel, 1 peck, 1 gallon, ½ gallon, 1 quart, 1 pint, ½ pint, ¼ pint or gill.

The Sierra Leone standards were verified by the Board of Trade in England before being brought into use. Copies of these standards have been procured duly authenticated as secondary standards and issued to Deputy Inspectors.

Deputy Inspectors of Weights and Measures carry out periodical inspection of weights and measures and weighing machines in all trade centres and stamp those found to be just and accurate.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the world-wide financial depression the work of canalizing Sanders Brook was shut down early in 1932 after the completion of approximately 1,000 lineal yards of canal. Should financial conditions improve it is hoped to complete this work in 1934. No public works of any magnitude have been undertaken, with the exception of the replacement of the main girders of the original section of No. 3 Jetty and the paving of a considerable area of the Wharf with 6-inch cement concrete.

Electric Light and Power.

An Electric Light and Power Scheme, put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal has both civil and criminal jurisdiction in appeal cases arising in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia; its Judges consist of the Judges of the Supreme Courts of those Colonies, together with the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, the President of the Court being the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast. The Court sits at Accra for hearing of cases sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Gold Coast, and at Freetown for those sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Supreme Court of the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony :—

(i) *The Supreme Court* (*Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court is also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal, of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap.* 43).

These are Courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Justice of the Protectorate are as follows :—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court."

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " the District Court ".

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Cap. 167.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Cap. 167.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to the supervision of the District Commissioners who can amend, vary, or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as " Joint Judges " to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner, who can review its decisions in all cases.

Return of Cases tried in District Courts in the Protectorate during 1932.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number imprisoned.*	*Number otherwise punished.*	*Number discharged.*
Moyamba	196	35	106	55
Bo	158	10	103	42
Kenema	132	13	64	46
Kailahun	87	9	68	10
Pujehun	198	22	145	28
Kono	120	6	107	7
Bonthe and Shebar ...	278	30	207	35
Kambia	48	9	35	4
Port Loko	141	30	84	27
Karene	66	14	49	2
Bombali	137	53	61	22
Koinadugu	29	3	20	6
Headquarters Jud. District	196	31	94	68
	* 1,786	265	1,143	352

* Of these 26 cases were undisposed of.

Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown in 1932.

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons discharged.*	*Remarks.*
Assault and battery ...	108	108	63	45	—
Harbour offence ...	9	9	9	—	—
Stowaways	8	8	8	—	—
Customs offence ...	9	9	9	—	—
Housebreaking	1	1	—	—	Committed for trial in the Supreme Court.
Burglary...	4	4	—	—	"
Shop breaking	2	2	—	—	"
Larceny from a house ...	1	1	—	—	"
Wounding	2	2	—	—	"
Larceny	443	443	328	115	—
Larceny from ship ...	2	2	2	—	—
Public health offence ...	226	226	222	4	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law.	—	—	—	—	—
Selling palm wine without a licence.	6	6	5	1	—
Disorderly conduct ...	36	36	25	11	—
Fighting	7	7	6	1	—
Drunk	3	3	2	1	—
Larceny	3	3	3	—	Juvenile Offenders.
Assault and battery ...	—	—	—	—	—
Throwing stones ...	6	6	5	1	—
Trespass	10	10	9	1	—
Committing nuisance ...	4	4	4	—	—

Return of Cases tried in the Circuit Court during 1932.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number imprisoned.*	*Number condemned.*	*Number otherwise punished.*	*Number discharged.*
Moyamba	**27**	**17**	**—**	**—**	**10**
Bo	**12**	**1**	**—**	**1**	**9**
Kenema	**22**	**5**	**—**	**—**	**17**
Kailahun...	**6**	**4**	**—**	**—**	**2**
Kono	**1**	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Pujehun	**6**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**4**
Shebar	**2**	**2**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Port Loko	**7**	**5**	**—**	**—**	**2**
Kambia	**2**	**1**	**1**	**—**	**—**
Karene	**1**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1**
Koinadugu	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Bombali	**5**	**4**	**—**	**1**	**—**
	***91**	**42**	**1**	**2**	**45**

*** Of these 1 was unfit within the meaning of the Criminal Lunatics Act, 1800, to take his trial.**

Police.

The Police Force is organized under the Police Ordinance, Cap. 156 of the Laws of the Colony. The authorized strength of the Force consists of 1 Commissioner, 3 Assistant Commissioners (Europeans), 1 Inspector and 2 Sub-Inspectors (Africans), 1 Sergeant-Major, 30 Sergeants, 58 First Class Constables, 76 Second Class Constables, and 131 Third Class Constables. The strength has been temporarily reduced by 31 Constables owing to the need for economy.

The following Rules are made under the Ordinance :—

Lost Property,

Leave,

Good Conduct, and

Dress.

The duties of the Force are concerned with the preservation of the peace, prevention and detection of crime, or other infraction of the Law; and, for these purposes, members of the Force are invested with all the powers, authorities, privileges, and immunities, and are liable to all the duties and responsibilities conferred, or imposed, upon Constables by the Ordinance, by the Common Law of England.

Enlistment is for five years, the first year being probationary, followed by a further term of five years and thereafter any term between one and five years. All probationers undergo a full course of six months' training before being drafted to full duty. The course of instruction consists of education, general police duties, traffic duty, and drill. Promotions are by examination and selection. There is a short musketry course sufficient to train the men in the use of the rifle in case of internal disturbance. The office is pensionable.

Offences committed by the rank and file are dealt with by the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner, and in a certain number of cases the punishment requires the confirmation of the Governor.

The police perform duties in the Colony only and are distributed as follows :—

Freetown, 223 (including 16 detectives).
Headquarters District, 25.
Mountain District, 24.

The police at the Headquarters District being under the supervision of the District Commissioner.

The rank and file is composed of a great many tribes the principal of which are :—

Mendi 44, Temne 85, Aku 58, Susu 24. All speak English.

The Police Reward Fund has now lapsed into general revenue and has been replaced by an annual grant of £100. From this, rewards for special services are paid and sports and recreation provided.

Prisons.

There are now ten prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows :—

Colony: Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate: Northern Province, local prisons: Kambia, Port Loko, Batkanu, Kabala, Makeni. Southern Province, local prisons: Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the years 1931 and 1932 was as follows :—

	1931.	1932.
Males	859	716
Females	17	16
Juveniles	37	17

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of Colony and Protectorate during the years 1931 and 1932 was :—

	1931.	1932.
Males	1,003	1,129
Females	5	3

The daily average number of prisoners in custody at the central prison at Freetown during the years 1931 and 1932 was :—

	1931.	1932.
Males	131	255

Juvenile Offenders.—Juvenile offenders are separated from adult prisoners at the main gate of the prison and they are afterwards kept apart from other prisoners of all classes. During working hours the boys occupy a large room in the female prison where they are taught to cut out and sew by hand simple articles of clothing. One of the observation wards in the hospital block of the male prison is used as a schoolroom, and the boys are taught elementary subjects from 4.45 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. on five nights a week. Meals are served in this room, and during their leisure time the boys are allowed to read books or play games.

Female and juvenile prisoners, sentenced to imprisonment by the District Courts or committed to prison for safe custody pending trial, are transferred to the central prison at Freetown.

Health.—There was an outbreak of epidemic oedema at Kenema and Freetown Prisons, otherwise the general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was 10.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1932 were :—

The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1932.
The Foodstuffs (Control and Prevention of Exploitation) Ordinance, 1932.
The Protectorate Highways Tolls Ordinance, 1932.
The Minerals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1932.
The Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund Ordinance, 1932.
The Alteration of Time Ordinance, 1932.
The Survey of Boats Ordinance, 1932.
The Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1932.
The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1932.
The Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1932.
The Imperial Statutes (Law of Property) Adoption Ordinance, 1932.
The Imperial Statutes (Criminal Law) Adoption Ordinance, 1932.
The European Reserve Force Ordinance, 1932.
The Tribal Administration (Colony) Ordinance, 1932.
The Jurors and Assessors (Amendment) Ordinance, 1932.
The Forced Labour Ordinance, 1932.

Of these Ordinances the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1932, and the Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1932, are mainly a consolidation of the existing legislation concerning the Courts of the Colony and Protectorate. In conjunction with the latter was passed the Protectorate Summary Ejectment Ordinance, 1932, which comprises those sections of the previous legislation under this title dealing with the making by the District Courts of orders of summary ejectment.

Both the first-named Ordinances were drafted in conjunction with the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1932, and have been shortened by reason of the matter contained in the latter. The only substantive alterations introduced are—in the first-named Ordinance—the curtailment of those cases in which a criminal charge may be tried by assessors, and the giving of a right of appeal to the West African Court of Appeal to lawyers suspended or disbarred by the Chief Justice; and in the second—the establishment of a closer control over the working of the native chiefs' courts.

The Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1932, is complementary to those Ordinances already mentioned. It comprises the procedural sections previously contained in a number of local Ordinances and other sections declaratory of the existing law. The principal amendments to the law made consist in the enactment of provisions as to the form, contents, and amendment of criminal informations similar to those regarding indictments contained in the Indictments Act, 1915, and of provisions similar to those in section 44 of the Larceny Act, 1916, empowering the courts to convict persons charged with certain offences of certain other specified offences.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1932, provides for the imposition of preferential duties on British goods and empowers the Governor in Council, with the approval of Legislative Council, (i) to extend preferential duties to countries which are good customers of Sierra Leone, and (ii) to impose heavier duties on the goods of countries imposing discriminating duties against the produce of this country.

The Foodstuffs (Control and Prevention of Exploitation) Ordinance, 1932, was passed to make forestalling and cornering of essential foodstuffs unprofitable.

The Minerals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1932, is a very short but important one as it sets at rest the difficulties raised by the principal Ordinance vesting the "control" of minerals in the Crown without at the same time vesting the property. This Ordinance vests the property in minerals both in the Colony and Protectorate in the Crown as from the date of the coming into force of the principal Ordinance.

The Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund Ordinance, 1932, was passed to create a fund to be derived from the income arising from mining rights, mining leases, water rights, and provisional water rights granted in the Protectorate, and to be applied to the improvement of education, sanitation, agriculture, and communication in the Protectorate.

The Alteration of Time Ordinance, 1932, is a daylight saving Ordinance.

The Survey of Boats Ordinance, 1932, requires all boats used for the conveyance of passengers, cattle, and cargo within certain areas to be prescribed to be surveyed to ascertain if they are suitable and safe for the purpose, to determine the number of persons or cattle they can safely carry, and to fix the position of the load line. It is hoped by this Ordinance to reduce the number of fatal accidents due to the reckless overloading and overcrowding of small native vessels.

The Imperial Statutes (Law of Property) Adoption Ordinance, 1932, applies to the Colony most Imperial Statutes between 1881 and 1911 dealing with conveyancing, settled land, and trusts; it also abolishes all remaining restrictions on the acquisition and disposition of land by married women, and a husband's liability for the ante-nuptial debts and torts of his wife.

The Imperial Statutes (Criminal Law) Adoption Ordinance, 1932, applies to the Colony the consolidating Imperial Acts dealing with perjury, forgery, and larceny.

The European Reserve Force Ordinance, 1932, establishes a European Reserve Force which, in time of emergency, may be utilized :—

(*a*) to complete the European personnel of the Sierra Leone Battalion;

(*b*) to provide members for special service; or

(*c*) as a unit composed wholly or partially of members of the Force.

The Tribal Administration (Colony) Ordinance, 1932, is a re-enactment of the Tribal Administration (Colony) Ordinance, 1924, with the omission of the provisions conferring judicial powers on Tribal Rulers, now called Tribal Headmen, and the inclusion of a section prohibiting them from exercising any judicial functions.

The Jurors and Assessors (Amendment) Ordinance, 1932, takes away the exemption from jury service previously conferred on all Government officials in general, and confines it to certain specified classes. It also provides that in a case tried by assessors, if all three assessors are agreed in their opinions, that opinion shall be the decision of the Court.

The Forced Labour Ordinance, 1932, gives effect to the International Labour Conference Convention on Forced Labour, and prohibits the exaction of forced labour except for the purpose of certain public works, or for the benefit of recognized chiefs who have enjoyed such labour by native custom. The Ordinance, however, limits the purposes for which a chief may demand labour, and, in all cases puts a limit to the period of labour which may be exacted. It also makes it an offence to refuse to work in those cases in which forced labour may be legally required.

The following are the more important subordinate legislative instruments which came into force during the year :—

The Ferry Tolls Order in Council, 1932, by which the tolls chargeable under the Ferries Ordinance, 1931, were fixed and that Ordinance thereby brought into effective operation.

The Hunting Lamps Importation Prohibition Order, 1932, which prohibits the importation of lamps specially manufactured or adapted for hunting at night with the object of preventing the reckless and excessive destruction of wild animals by that method of hunting.

The Cinematograph Exhibition (Board of Control) Order, 1932, which sets up the Board of Control to censor cinematograph films under the Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance of the previous year.

The Native Produce (Export of Rice) Rules, 1932, which were made in May, 1932, when for the first time it seemed that the crop of this food would be sufficient to open an export trade therein. They are designed to ensure the maintenance of a proper standard of quality in exported rice.

The Headman and Committee Election Rules, 1932, which for the first time prescribe the exact procedure to be followed in the election of the Headmen and Committees in the villages of the Colony.

The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Rules, 1932, which give effect to the Radiotelegraphy Convention of Washington, 1927, in so far as its provisions are applicable in this Colony. They provide for the secrecy of wireless correspondence, and prohibit (i) the erection of new " Type B " transmitting installations, and (ii) the use of " Type B " waves from and after the first day of January, 1935.

The Native Produce (Itinerant Purchase) Rules, 1932, which were made to deal with a growing practice among certain traders in the Protectorate of sending out lorries along the roads for the purpose of forestalling native produce on its way to the recognized markets.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on 31st December, 1932, showing the state of the year's working and the financial position of the Colony to be as follows :—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1932		101,453
Revenue 1932	872,469	
Expenditure, 1932	831,921	
Surplus Revenue over Expenditure		40,548
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1932... ...		142,001

The revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1928	826,319	815,374
1929	740,646	871,086
1930	742,972	805,725
1931	884,153	884,008
1932	872,469	831,921

Note.—The figures for 1931 and 1932 include receipts and payments of £180,000 and £175,000 respectively in respect of the Colonial Development Fund Loan on account of the Marampa Iron Ore Concession.

The funded debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1932, was £2,141,273, against which the accumulations to the sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £676,148.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1932 amounted to £642,210, as follows :—

	£
Investments	475,551
Reserve Fund	30,000
Stores	26,909
Loans (City Council and Railway)	48,973
Sundry Debtors	15,002
Cash	45,775

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1932 were :—

	£
Customs	451,916
Port, Harbour and Light	11,209
Licences and Internal Revenue	20,469
Taxes	84,870

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932. There are no treaty obligations. An *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent (Preferential) and 20 per cent (General) is levied on all edibles, provisions, and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, excepting a few imports of this nature bearing a specific duty, the more important of which are sugar, ¾d. and 1d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1½d. per lb. (General); tea, 4d. per lb. (Preferential) and 5 per lb. (General); salt, table, 1s. 10d.

per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 2s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General) ; lard, 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General) ; flour, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. per cwt. (General); dried, salted, and pickled fish, 3s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 6. per 100 lb. (General) ; beef and pork, pickled and salted, 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 2d. per 100 lb. (General) ; onions and potatoes, ¼d. per lb. (Preferential) and ½d. per lb. (General).

On wares and merchandise (including cotton piece-goods) is levied an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 30 per cent. (General), excluding a number of imports subject to specific duty. The main items subject thereto are : bags, 3s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General) ; candles, 10s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General) ; cement, 1s. 1d. per 400 lb. (gross) (Preferential) and 2s. per 400 lb. (gross) (General) ; corrugated iron sheets, £4 2s. 8d. a ton (Preferential) and £5 3s. 4d. a ton (General) ; paint, etc., 5s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (General).

On fuel oil is levied a duty of 3d. per gallon (Preferential) and 4d. per gallon (General) ; kerosene, 8d. per gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per gallon (General) ; lubricating oil, 8d. per gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per gallon (General) ; and motor spirit, 7d. per gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 2d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 6d. per lb. (General) ; manufactured tobacco, 4s. and 5s. per lb. (Preferential) and 6s. per lb. (General), cigarettes 1s. 6d. and 2s. per 100 (Preferential) and 2s. 6d. per 100 (General) or 6s. and 8s. per lb. over 4¼ oz. per 100. (Preferential) and 10s. per lb. over 4¼ oz. per 100 (General).

On spirits (50 per cent volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per gallon (General), and on wines from 3s. to 8s. a gallon ; beer and ale, stout and porter are liable to 1s. 6d. per bulk gallon (Preferential) and 2s. per bulk gallon (General)

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty :—palm kernels, 30s. a ton ; kola nuts, ½d. a lb. ; gum copal, 3d. per lb.

A royalty of 5 per cent is levied on gold, platinum, and diamonds exported.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wine, spirits, kerosene, tobacco, arms and ammunition, and gunpowder are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1932 amounted to £851.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from licences, as follows:—

Auctioneer, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.

Pawnbroker, bicycle, shopkeepers, hotel, and professional licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible, and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House tax in Freetown and the Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—No further reproduction was carried out at the expense of the Colony. Sheet No. 59 was, however, reproduced in two colours by the War Office and a small supply made gratis. No revision work has been carried out.

Cadastral Branch.—Nineteen Mining Surveys were executed during the year and realised £393 in revenue. Surveys in connexion with land acquisition and leases were also carried out and further progress made in detail survey in the Freetown area. The Drawing Office has been kept fully employed.

Map of Sierra Leone (Scale 1/500,000).—This map was reproduced under arrangements made with the War Office and five hundred copies were received. These have been taken into use by Government Departments and have been placed on sale to the public.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out successfully.

It was decided to postpone a decision with regard to the adoption or otherwise of a system of compulsory registration of deeds until such time as the financial aspect of the case could receive fuller consideration.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government Departments during the year amounted to £199. Sales to the public realised £92. The sum derived from sale and hire of Government stores amounted to £96.

Geological Survey.

During 1932 the Department continued the investigation of the geology and mineral resources of Sierra Leone.

Reconnaissance surveys were made in the two Provinces. Work in the northern and eastern sections of Koinadugu District confirmed the belief that granite is the predominating rock of this area. No new areas of schist were discovered.

The northern and southern extent of the Gori Hills schist belt were determined, and the alluvial gold discovery near Giehun was examined in greater detail. A further small occurrence of alluvial gold was located on the western flank of these hills, approximately three miles to the east of Gandohun.

The Makong gold area, the Konno diamond area, and the platinum area near York were visited, and geological information obtained during prospecting on these areas was studied.

Two and a-half months' work was put in at the geological laboratories of the Royal School of Mines, London, S.W.7. In the course of this work the rock specimens and mineral concentrates collected during the two preceding field seasons were examined and classified, and a large number of thin sections of rocks were studied under the microscope.

Towards the end of the year a detailed survey of the northern section of the Kangari and Sula schist belt was commenced, and special attention is being devoted to the gold and haematite deposits of this area.

Imperial Institute—Public Exhibition Galleries.

Photographs of Sierra Leone scenery and industries have been used in the new series of picture postcards issued by the Imperial Institute.

Labels and charts relating to the exhibits in the Court have been revised and brought up to date where necessary. The exhibits have also been refreshed with new specimens by the Agricultural Department.

Lectures to organized parties from schools have been continued; also the distribution of samples of products, literature, and postcards.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, MILLBANK, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1, AND FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, GEORGE STREET, FREETOWN.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.

	£	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all supplements: annual subscription, inland	1	5	0
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all supplements: annual subscription, overseas	1	10	0

	For current or previous year.		For any prior year.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, single copies, inclusive of "Special Supplements" only	0	6	1	0
Trade Supplement (postage 1*d.* extra)	0	3	0	6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, etc.: Not exceeding 8 pages ...	0	4	0	8
9 to 16 ,, ...	0	6	1	0
17 to 32 ,, ...	0	9	1	6
33 to 48 ,, ...	1	3	2	6
49 to 64 ,, ...	1	6	3	0
65 to 96 ,, ...	2	0	4	0
Exceeding 96 ,, ...	2	6	5	0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Revised Laws, Vols. I, II, and III, half pigskin ...	7	7	0	*3	3†
Revised Laws, Vols. I, II, and III, buckram	6	6	0	*3	3†
Revised Laws, separate Vols., half pigskin, each ...	2	9	0	*1	3§
Revised Laws, separate Vols., buckram, each	2	2	0	*1	3§
Revised Laws, Protectorate Volume	1	10	0	*1	3‡
Revised Laws, Customs and Trade Volume	1	0	0	0	8
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928, each	0	12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, and 1931, each	0	12	6	1	2
Customs Trade Report, 1930	0	5	0	0	5
Governor's Address on the Estimates for 1932	0	0	6	0	1
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year ...	0	1	6	0	2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent Numbers, each	0	0	6	0	2
The Handbook of Sierra Leone	0	10	6	0	8
Sierra Leone Studies (Abridged Edition) of Nos. 1, 2, and 3	0	1	0	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies, No. 6	0	0	6	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7 to 17, each	0	1	0	0	2
Handbook of the Temne Language	0	5	0	0	3½

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	0	10	6	0	3
Handbook on the Tsetse Fly (Austen)	0	5	0	0	6
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by H. C. Luke, K.C.M.G.	0	8	6	0	4
Report on the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone ...	0	1	6	0	2
Beriberi and the Freetown Prison	0	10	6	—	
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vols. I and II, by D. A. Bannerman, each	1	2	6	*1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville	0	2	6	0	1½

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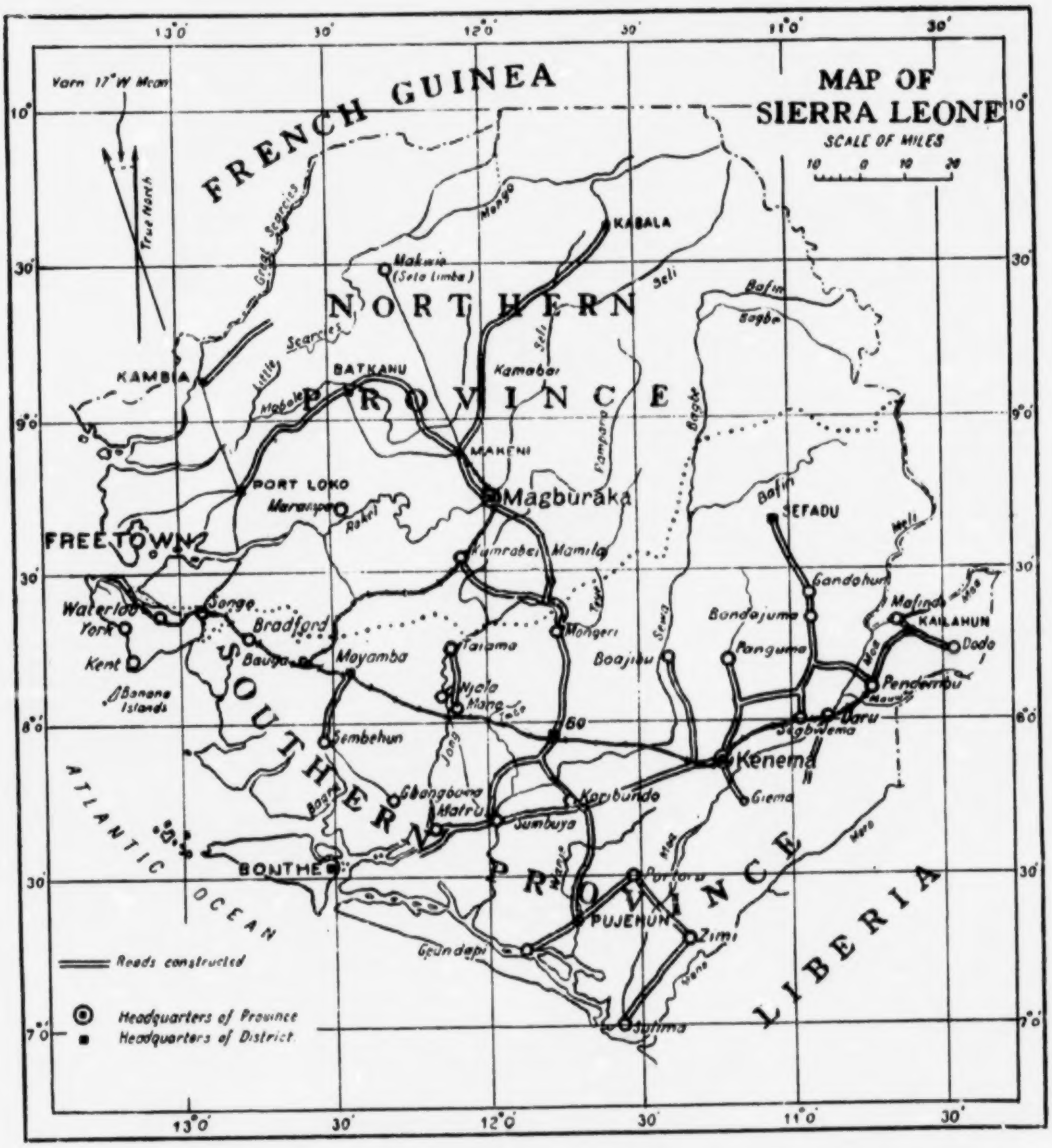
* Inland Parcel Post. Imperial or Foreign Parcel Post at the rates for: † 22 lb.; § 7 lb.; ‡ 5 lb.

Note.—Remittances from Overseas should be by Bank Draft (plus commission) or British Postal Order, made payable to the Government Printer, Freetown.


MAP OF
SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
Varn 17° W Mean
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
KABALA
Makeni (Sela Limba)
BATKANU
Kamabai
MAKENI
Magburaka
KAMBIA
PORT LOKO
Marampa
FREETOWN
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
Moyamba
Mamila
Yamrabei
Mongeri
Taiama
Njala
Mano
Sembehun
Gbangbama
Mafru
Sumbuya
Koribundo
BONTHE
Gbundapi
PUJEHUN
Pottoru
Zimi
Sulima
Boajibu
Bandajuma
Panguma
Kenema
Giema
Segbwema
Daru
Pendembu
Mafindo
KAILAHUN
Dodo
Gandohun
SEFADU
Great Scarcies
Little Scarcies
Mabole
Mongo
Seli
Bafin
Bagbe
Pampana
Bagbe
Rokel
Teye
Sewa
Jong
Taia
Moa
Mano
Wanje
Bagru
Meli
Roads constructed
Headquarters of Province
Headquarters of District
13°0'
30'
12°0'
11°0'
10°
9°0'
8°0'
7°0'

NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province have now been transferred from Magburaka to Freetown.

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121.	9*d*. (10*d*.).
British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery.	2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Wool Quality: A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth.	£1 1*s*. (£1 1*s*. 9*d*.).
Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927–30. (E.M.B. 46.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
Banana Breeding at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. (E.M.B. 47.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
Imperial Sugar Cane Research Conference, 1931. Report of Proceedings.	2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 11*d*.).
Further Changes in the Demand for Butter, July, 1928, and July, 1931. Report of an Investigation into the Retail Marketing of Butter in Nottingham. (E.M.B. 48.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 49).	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
The Demand for Honey. (E.M.B. 50.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
Milk Price Margins. A Report on the Differences between Producers' Prices, Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Liquid Milk in certain Large Cities in Different Countries. (E.M.B. 51.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
Dairy Produce Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 52.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Survey of Vegetable Oilseeds and Oils. Vol. I. Oil Palm Products. (E.M.B. 54.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).
Canned and Dried Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 55.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
The Demand for Canned Vegetables. (E.M.B. 56.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Wool Survey. A Summary of Production and Trade in the Empire and Foreign Countries. (E.M.B. 57.)	2*s*. (2*s*. 6*d*.).
Cattle Breeding in Jamaica and Trinidad. (E.M.B. 58.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
The Storage of Tropically-grown Tomatoes. (E.M.B. 59.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
Control of Wastage in Bananas, with special reference to Time and Temperature Factors. (E.M.B. 60.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).
Survey of Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils. Vol. II. Coconut Palm Products. (E.M.B. 61.)	2*s*. (2*s*. 5*d*.).
Barley Survey. A Study of Barley Production, Exports, Imports, Marketing, Markets and Prices in the Principal Exporting and Importing Countries in the World. (E.M.B. 62.)	2*s*. (2*s*. 5*d*.).
Empire Marketing Board. May, 1932, to May, 1933. (E.M.B. 63.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Sisal: A note on the Attributes of the Fibre and their Industrial Significance. (E.M.B. 64.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Fruit Supplies in 1932. (E.M.B. 65.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Dairy Produce Supplies in 1932. (E.M.B. 66.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Report on the Infestation of Cured Tobacco in London by the Cacao Moth Ephestia Elutella H.B. (E.M.B. 67.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Palestine Orange Shipments. (E.M.B. 68.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
Canned and Dried Fruit Supplies in 1932. (E.M.B. 69.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include Postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

at the Addresses on the Front Cover of this Report.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
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SIERRA LEONE, 1933

(For Report for 1931 see No. 1578 (Price 2s. 6d.) and for Report for 1932 see No. 1631 (Price 2s. od.))

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE, 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 260 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,665 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northward to more open or "orchard bush" country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced toward the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly "Harmattan" wind usually blows at intervals during the December-February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed the Harmattan carries down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average minimum and maximum may be placed at 74° and 87° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level. July and August are as a rule the wettest months.

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons

—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the "Liberated Africans" who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with a view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but, owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually, a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments :—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the

community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be reappointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though, as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was receded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent

Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is comprised within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown,
(2) The Headquarters Judicial District,
(3) The Bonthe District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

This District which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioners of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

Bonthe District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island and the Turtle Islands and of York Island and of the four following chiefdoms on the mainland—viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and

Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years it was, for political purposes, divided into a varying number of Districts, and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively, the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely, the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out :—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of those two Provinces;

(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and

(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each District is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambakka Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e., from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially, length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and disinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any " palaver " which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of the Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature : administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax, and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirits, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of a Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 is 96,422, the racial distribution being as follows :—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes ...	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans.	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives ...	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate is 1,672,057, of which 796,391 are males and 875,666 are females, and consists of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics, and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate is 231, of which 173 are males and 58 are females. Of this total 142 are British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which are included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate is 772—577 males and 195 females. These include 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate number 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These include Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans number 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	**32,846**	**3,046**	**35,892**	**2·04**
Other African non-natives	**929**	**219**	**1,148**	**0·07**
Temne	**21,431**	**472,258**	**493,689**	**27·95**
Mende	**10,258**	**568,788**	**579,046**	**32·78**
Limba	**6,957**	**138,714**	**145,671**	**8·24**
Loko	**5,228**	**57,152**	**62,380**	**3·52**
Bullom and Sherbro ...	**4,634**	**139,101**	**143,735**	**8·15**
Susu	**2,391**	**43,210**	**45,601**	**2·58**
Mandingo	**1,988**	**14,081**	**16,069**	**0·91**
Fula	**1,330**	**15,523**	**16,853**	**0·96**
Kono	**604**	**68,521**	**69,125**	**3·92**
Gallinas (or Vai)	**673**	**19,865**	**20,538**	**1·16**
Koranko	**157**	**44,203**	**44,360**	**2·52**
Kissi	**170**	**34,810**	**34,980**	**1·32**
Yalunka	**73**	**16,066**	**16,139**	**0·92**
Krim	**41**	**20,639**	**20,680**	**1·18**
Gola	**—**	**8,509**	**8,509**	**0·50**
Gbande	**—**	**1,131**	**1,131**	**0·07**
Fanti	**125**	**—**	**125**	**0·01**
Joloff	**181**	**—**	**181**	**0·01**
Sarakuli	**122**	**—**	**122**	**0·01**
Kroo	**4,481**	**—**	**4,481**	**0·29**
Bassa	**512**	**—**	**512**	**0·04**
Miscellaneous	**427**	**5,219**	**5,646**	**0·33**
Totals	**95,558**	**1,671,055**	**1,766,613**	

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population is as follows :—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	**20,970**	**11,876**	**3,046**	**35,892**
Other African non-natives	**784**	**145**	**219**	**1,148**
Tribes	**32,919**	**28,864**	**1,667,790**	**1,729,573**
Total African population				**1,766,613**

Migration.

Complete records of immigration and emigration are not available. Registration of persons entering and leaving the Colony by sea only is kept and there are no records showing the numbers who cross the land frontiers.

Of the immigrant population, Syrians are the most important element and now form a considerable community. They come solely for the purposes of trade. During 1933 the registers show that 130 Syrians entered and 109 departed from the Colony by sea.

The European population consists of Government officials, traders, mercantile agents, mining company employees, and missionaries coming and going frequently between the Colony, Protectorate, and Europe.

With reference to the African population there is a constant flow between the Colony and Protectorate and various African colonies. The only reliable figures for migration are those relating to the Syrians.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for births and deaths for the Colony for 1933 are as follows :—

(*a*) **Births—**

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
1,186	1,140	2,326	23·4

(The birth-rate as shown is probably too low owing to many births outside Freetown having escaped registration).

(*b*) **Deaths—**

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
1,218	987	2,205	22·5

No figures are available for births and deaths for the Protectorate, registration not being compulsory.

Infant Mortality.—The following are the figures for infant mortality for the Colony for 1933 :—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000 live-births.*
294	246	540	232

(The infant mortality rate shown is probably too high owing to the absence of machinery for enforcing registration of births outside Freetown).

No figures for infant mortality are available for the Protectorate for the same reason as given in the previous paragraph.

The last decennial census (1931) gave a total of 96,422 persons in the Colony as compared with 85,163 persons in 1921. The increase is due chiefly to immigration of natives from the Protectorate to Freetown, the rest of the Colony showing an increase of about 41 persons during this period.

The population of the Protectorate was recorded as 1,672,057 persons compared with 1,456,148 persons in 1921, the difference in this case being an actual increase due to natural increment and not to migratory or other causes.

Marriages.

The number of marriages as shown by the registers for 1933 are :—

	Freetown.	*Village areas (Colony).*	*Headquarters District (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Total.*
Christian ...	127	31	14	7	179
Mohammedan ...	19	—	—	—	19
Totals ...	146	31	14	7	198

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate, of which 26 were recorded as having taken place in 1933. Mohammedan marriages and those by " Native Custom " are not registered.

Occupations.

The figures in the following paragraph are obtained from the census taken in 1931 :—

> Of the total population of 96,422 persons in the Colony, only 60,954, or 63.2 per cent. are returned as having occupations. This number has been returned as following some stated occupation or in the habit of following that occupation, but it can only be assumed and not definitely stated that they are earners or gainfully occupied; the remainder, 35,468, are returned as " no occupation ", " dependants ", " attending school ", " other children ", and " pensioners ". Of the total occupied persons 61.1 per cent. are males and 38.9 per cent. females. Of the total male population 70.9 per cent. are occupied and of the female 54.1 per cent.

The following table shows the classes of occupation (percentages only) in 1931, by comparison with 1921 :—

Occupation.	1921 *Percentage.*	1931 *Percentage.*
Agriculture	15.1	13.1
Fishing		2.1
Commerce and banking (including petty trade)	43.1	21.1
Professions (including teaching and religious occupations)		0.8
Administrative and defence (including soldiers)		1.7
Skilled trades and occupations ...		7.0
Miscellaneous		2.5
Labourers and servants	9.1	7.2
No occupation, children, dependants, etc.	32.7	34.5

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

The appended list shows in tabular form the main diseases treated at the Government institutions in the Colony and Protectorate in 1932 and 1933. It does not include cases treated in the Mission hospitals and dispensaries and cannot be taken as an accurate statement of the morbidity of the general population, the great majority of whom but seldom come under the influence of European medical care. There has been a slight increase in the incidence of systematic diseases and the figures for yaws and malaria show a fairly large increase when compared with 1932. In spite of the very heavy rainfall experienced in 1933 the increase in respiratory diseases is not very marked; but the deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia number 186 or 15·13 per cent. of the total. Malaria is next with 12·85 per cent. The deaths from tuberculosis number 51 and comprise 4·14 per cent. of the total deaths.

Venereal diseases are common; but the returns of cases treated cannot be taken as an index of the prevalence of the disease, nor can the yearly comparative figures be accepted to indicate the actual fluctuation. There has, however, been a marked increase in the number of cases of syphilis treated at the hospitals. The Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Connaught Hospital is well patronized and is doing very good work.

It is worthy of note that guinea worm is practically non-existent in this Colony whereas it is common in the other West African Colonies. Only one case has been treated in Government institutions during 1933 and this case was imported from Liberia

Agriculture is still the main occupation of the people and is associated with skeletal and muscular affections, arthritis, chronic rheumatism, etc. All the workings in the mining industries are above ground, and thus apart from the " agglomeration diseases ", i.e. the ill-defined enteric group, the dysenteries, etc., which are apt to occur in tropical countries where large numbers of people not supplied with pipe-borne water supplies and sewage services are grouped together, no increased incidence of occupational diseases is to be expected.

Disease.	1932.	1933.
Malaria	4,857	6,548
Yaws	5,981	7,665
Acute rheumatism	733	620
Chronic rheumatism	4,529	5,157
Hemiplegia	89	119
Conjunctivitis	829	807
Affections of the ear	860	852
Haemorrhoids	116	100
Lymphadenitis, bubo (non-specific) ...	536	596

Disease.	1932.	1933.
Coryza	552	873
Acute bronchitis	5,326	5,981
Chronic bronchitis	3,461	3,109
Asthma	162	159
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,400	1,423
Gastritis	389	299
Dyspepsia	3,603	3,859
Diarrhoea and enteritis	908	1,262
Ankylostomiasis	185	131
Hernia	689	713
Constipation	8,251	8,725
Acute nephritis	53	94
Schistosomiasis	59	71
Epididymitis	33	61
Orchitis	225	199
Hydrocele	287	233
Abscess	577	612
Scabies	1,091	1,210
Eczema	221	337
Osteitis	291	1,432
Arthritis	1,616	1,802
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,049	1,260
Fracture	159	303
Other external injuries	3,948	2,850
Asthenia	591	752
Syphilis	388	616
Gonorrhoea	2,114	2,250

Mortality.

The figures as to the causes of deaths registered are not very accurate, and cannot even be considered as such until a system of medical certification of death is compulsory: at present in Freetown all non-certified deaths are personally investigated by the Medical Officer of Health (who is also Deputy Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths) and from the information given an approximate diagnosis is made; in cases of doubt, or on the slightest suspicion of infectious disease, a post mortem is made: it is impossible to enforce medical certification of death while the country is in its present stage of development.

Principal Causes of Deaths, 1933.

Appended is a list showing the principal causes of deaths as registered. The deaths as registered in Freetown are an approximate statement of the mortality cause.

Causes.	*Freetown (including Cline Town)* 1,229.	
	Number.	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and pneumonia	186	15·1
Malaria...	158	12·8
Premature birth	68	5·5
Infantile convulsions	61	4·9
Dysentery, diarrhoea and enteritis ...	60	4·9
Tuberculosis, all forms	51	4·1
Heart disease	48	3·9
Nephritis	47	3·8
Debility	12	0·9
Septicaemia	12	0·9
Rheumatism	12	0·9

The number of deaths registered on medical certificate was 361, comprising 29·3 per cent. of the deaths registered.

Causes of deaths for the rest of the Colony are not included for 1933 because the figures are very unreliable owing to the absence of a Medical Officer or dispenser in the majority of the registration areas,

Provision for Treatment.

Colony.—There are two general hospitals maintained by Government in the Colony, the Connaught Hospital at Freetown and the Colonial Hospital at Bonthe. There is also a hospital maintained by the Church Missionary Society in Freetown, the figures for which are not available.

The figures of attendance at the Connaught and Bonthe Hospitals are as follows :—

	1932.	1933.
Connaught Hospital—		
In-patients	2,632	2,268
Out-patients—new cases	12,019	17,313
Subsequent attendances	55,198	50,147
Operations	1,913	1,877
Bonthe Hospital—		
In-patients	400	292
Out-patients—new cases	3,624	5,988
Subsequent attendances	18,094	16,971

The figures show a decrease in the number of in-patients treated but a large increase in the number of out-patients when compared with 1932.

Protectorate.—There are three permanent hospitals in the Protectorate at Daru, Bo, and Makeni, the last two being type hospitals which are to be extended to other towns as it becomes possible financially. There are in addition four hospitals of native construction and three conducted by Medical Missions. These are subsidized by Government and employ qualified medical men and nurses.

The figures of attendance at the two type hospitals are as follows. It will be seen that the figures for Bo show an all-round increase, but for Makeni, although there is an increase in the number of in-patients, there is a decrease in the number of out-patients and a marked decrease in the number of subsequent attendances. This may be accounted for by the people being unable to travel owing to the economic depression.

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Southern Province.

	1932.	1933.
In-patients	249	279
Out-patients—new cases	2,073	2,473
Subsequent attendances	17,708	18,826

Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province.

In-patients	271	318
Out-patients—new cases	1,936	1,429
Subsequent attendances	21,817	4,860

Dispensaries.—These are situated in the Colony villages and in towns in the Protectorate not served by Medical Officers. They are conducted by dispensers who are trained as both druggists and nurses, and are visited regularly by the Medical Officer of the District. There are eight such dispensaries in the Colony, and ten in the Protectorate.

Nurses and Midwives.—Male and female nurses are trained in the Connaught Hospital, where a full course of lectures and practical training takes three years, with an examination at the end of each year. After training they are sent to the other hospitals and institutions. Midwives are trained at the Connaught Hospital maternity section and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital. An examination is conducted annually, with a high standard required for a pass, which entitles to registration as a midwife.

Several of these are now in private practice, and are being increasingly employed by the public. Legislation has been effected during the year which places the practice of midwifery somewhat on a parallel with the conditions existing in Great Britain.

Child Welfare.—The work has been well maintained in the Connaught Hospital and Campbell Street centres and also at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

	Connaught Hospital and Campbell Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1932.	1933.	1932.	1933.
Ante-natal attendances	3,009	4,248	1,435	1,280
Labour cases admitted	240	281	71	56
Health visits	3,650	4,858	2,998	3,355
Infant-welfare clinic attendances	9,732	11,068	9,096	9,040

The immigrant natives from the Protectorate, who form the large majority of the inhabitants of Freetown and the Colony, come within the scope of the work of these institutions. The population of the Protectorate is for the most part rural and that of the more important towns is not large enough to justify the appointment of health visitors or the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres as separate institutions. Facilities are provided at the general hospitals and dispensaries already referred to, for those who wish to avail themselves.

A non-certificated School Nurse, whose duties are interchangeable with those of the Health Visitor, is at present engaged in midwifery and gynaecological work.

Sanitation.

Last year's Report contained a brief review of the outbreak of smallpox in the Colony and Protectorate in 1932. The spread of the outbreak to other districts in 1933 was probably the result of a few undetected cases carrying the infection from the Karene and Bombali Districts into Koinadugu, one of the most thinly populated districts of the Protectorate; and also from the north-western portion of Kailahun District—where a number of cases occurred in 1932—into the Kono District.

From these points the disease appears to have spread southwards and westwards into the Kenema and Bo Districts, a much more thickly populated area, and in northern Kenema it assumed the proportions of a serious outbreak due almost entirely to the fear of the native to report to his Chief and, in some instances, the reluctance of the Chiefs to report to their District Commissioners and Assistant District Commissioners. Fear of vaccination also accounts for the fact that only 57,141 vaccinations could be performed in the infected areas.

The following table shows briefly the number of cases, deaths, and vaccinations performed in each district.

Area.	*Number of cases discovered.*	*Number of deaths.*	*Number of vaccinations.*
Colony Districts.—			
Freetown	27	2	2,118
Headquarters	4	—	768
Sherbro	1	—	820
Protectorate Districts.—			
Northern Province.—			
Port Loko	160	1	5,848
Kambia	101	2	3,928
Karene	20	4	177
Bombali	160	1	8,537
Koinadugu	86	1	4,588
Southern Province.—			
Kailahun	81	5	2,782
Kono	591	*147	9,954
Kenema	451	62	5,112
Bo	631	46	4,504
Moyamba	116	17	4,809
Pujehun	3	—	3,196
	2,432	288	57,141

* Not all verified.

In the Protectorate, the mining villages and camps at Makong and Maranda in the Northern Province, and the minor port of Sulima in the Southern Province were declared health areas. During the year the Chief Sanitary Superintendent made sanitary surveys of the eleven health areas in the Northern Province including those mentioned above.

In Freetown the early and intermittent nature of the rains gave rise to a great deal of mosquito breeding and a consequent rise in the number of malaria cases seeking treatment in the hospitals. The resources of the Health Department were thus taxed to the utmost in the speedy prosecution of preventive measures.

There was a striking increase in the number of anthrax infections discovered at the slaughter house in Freetown, no fewer than twenty-three bullocks and one sheep having to be condemned and destroyed by incineration. Although all cattle arriving at Freetown comes from French Guinea, it thus became necessary for a Sanitary Inspector to be on regular duty inspecting the local grazing grounds for the detection of early cases owing to the possibility of diseased animals being disposed of in rural places.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses on concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls and roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or native timber boarding and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class as a rule own their houses, but the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables house owners and prospective house owners to loan money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones.

In addition, a building scheme, which is so far proving very successful, has been introduced by a firm of timber merchants in Freetown. Under this scheme, prospective owners of the type of house property costing from £200 to £600 approximately, can erect buildings under the supervision of the firm both expeditiously and inexpensively, a payment being made by an initial small deposit followed by monthly instalments.

In connexion with this scheme, Government has laid out and has leased to the firm a small model residential area which enables intending house owners to obtain (by assignment from the firm) leases of building plots at a moderate ground rent and with an option to purchase the freehold within twenty years.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities are platinum, gold, diamonds, iron, chromite and probably molybdenite. With the exception of chromite and molybdenite these minerals were mined during the year, and exported to England. Prospecting continued for platinum, gold and diamonds, and several promising deposits were located.

Platinum.—Only one company was engaged in the exploitation of the alluvial deposits of platinum in the Colony. Production decreased from 527 ounces in 1932 to 423 ounces in 1933.

Gold.—Three companies were engaged in mining alluvial gold, and production and its estimated value by quarter were as follows :—

Quarter.	*Production unrefined gold bullion oz. troy.*	*Estimated fine gold oz. troy.*	*Estimated value.* £
1st	4,196	3,900	23,638
2nd	3,130	2,877	17,600
3rd	4,490	4,172	26,555
4th	3,788	3,535	22,529
Year	15,604	14,484	£90,322

The year's output of unrefined gold bullion and its estimated value compares favourably with the previous year's output of 12,125 ounces and its estimated value of £65,855.

The gold exists in alluvial deposits of streams draining the Sula Mountains—Kangari Hills schist belt in the Koinadugu, Bombali and Bo Districts of the Protectorate. During the year many more streams were found to be auriferous and mining was commenced on some of them. The gold lode occurrence at Baomahun is being prospected by shaft sinking and adit driving with promising results.

Diamonds.—A virtual monopoly for the exploration and exploitation of diamonds in Sierra Leone was granted to the Consolidated African Selection Trust. Mining commenced this year and production reached 32,017 carats for the year. Prospecting continued with good results.

Iron.—All major constructional works in connexion with the Marampa iron ore mine were completed during the year and mining was commenced. The first shipment was made in September, and 24,500 tons were exported during the year. Negotiations are pending with respect to the larger iron deposit in the Tonkolili area.

Labour.—The mineral production is in the hands of the British mining companies and European and American engineers are in charge of operations. The natives of the country are employed as artisans, clerks, headmen, and labourers. There are no independent native operators. The contract, the daily wage, and the piece-rate systems of employing labour are all in operation.

In the goldfields the piece-rate system is favoured. At four places mining is carried on by mechanical or semi-mechanical methods, but most gold mining is done in rock-bound channels and in shallow alluvium at the heads of small streams, suitable only for hand labour methods. The labour supply is plentiful and wages average about 9d. a day, although at certain places the labourer has the opportunity to earn up to 1s. 6d. a day.

Platinum mining is done at a daily wage, with bonuses on production.

Excluding gold mining, the mining enterprises pay a daily wage. The rates are 1s., 9d., 6d. a day, depending on the work. The native is eager to obtain light employment for an assured daily wage of 6d.

Mining is responsible indirectly for raising the standard of living of the Protectorate, bringing money and providing markets for produce in hitherto remote parts of the country. The mine labour compounds scattered about the country are examples of cleanliness, sanitation, and avoidance of overcrowding which set new standards for the people of the countryside.

Health areas have been declared in the vicinity of the large mining camps so that the Health Department can control housing and sanitation in the native villages.

An average of 3,722 natives were engaged in mining and prospecting within exclusive prospecting licences. Several hundreds were also engaged in prospecting and miscellaneous services.

Agricultural Produce.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The main food crop is rice and it is encouraging to be able to record that all reports received point to a crop above the average; it appears unlikely that there will be any real shortage even in the "hungry" season. For the first time on record rice has been brought into Zimi for sale by local farmers, and this in an area which normally consumes more than it produces is very significant. Equally significant is the fall in the imports of white rice for the last five years.

	Imports—white rice. *tons.*	*Exports—native rice.* *tons.*	*Excess (+) or deficit (−) of imports over exports.* *tons.*
1929	3,029	13	+ 3,016
1930	2,618	175	+ 2,443
1931	457	177	+ 280
1932*	301	559	− 258
1933	125	158	− 33

* Some shortage was experienced in August and September that year.

It will be seen that whereas five years ago imports exceeded exports by some 3,000 tons, during the last two years exports exceeded imports.

As a result of imported seed of varieties capable of withstanding deep water conditions, the spread of rice cultivation in deep water swamps in the Southern Province has been very marked, and large hitherto useless areas have now been put into useful cultivation. In the Scarcies an area has been obtained for an experimental farm and arrangements are being made for the Agricultural Officer in the Northern Province to carry out trials with local and exotic types with a view to propagating the varieties best suited to the prevailing conditions. This steady growth in the production of rice gives an excellent prospect for the future of a rice exporting industry, provided that proper milling facilities are available to ensure suitable preparation of the milled product for markets outside Sierra Leone.

Cassava.—This is the second most important food crop in Sierra Leone and the efforts of the Agricultural Department have been directed to eliminating " mosaic " and propagating those varieties least susceptible to the disease.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—64,083 tons of kernels were exported during the year. This is 13,079 tons less than in 1932 (which was a record year), but well above the average for the last five years. The very low price prevailing for kernels makes this industry less attractive than formerly to the natives.

Ginger.—Propaganda for the better cultivation and cleaning of ginger was continued, but the low price prevailing did not tend to encourage the farmer. 1,545 tons of ginger were exported and the quality was well up to that of previous years.

Piassava.—1933 was a record year for piassava. During the year 3,500 tons were exported which included 796 tons from Sherbro and 2,065 tons from Sulima. The Sherbro fibre well maintained its reputation, while the Sulima fibre, though not of the same high quality as Sherbro piassava, showed some slight improvement. Propaganda and instruction still continue and although a high standard has not yet been reached for Sulima piassava, inspection at any rate prevents the exportation of any useless rubbish.

Coffee.—This crop is quite popular in some parts of the Colony and is steadily although slowly spreading. At present there is a ready local sale for the coffee produced and consequently very little is exported. As the recently planted plantations come into bearing exports should increase.

Kola.—The export of kola continues to fall, not so much from any lack of production in the Colony, but from the fact that owing to the fall in prices of West African produce generally, there is no money in other Colonies, notably Nigeria, to buy kola. The following figures show the position.

Exports.

	Tons.	£
1929	3,127	266,422
1930	2,271	186,197
1931	1,584	47,847
1932	2,097	41,373
1933	1,817	43,656

Fruit.—Investigations into the possibility of fruit export have been carried a stage further. It has now been reported that Sierra Leone oranges when coloured, graded and properly packed, arrive in England in good condition and should be readily saleable. It is suggested that oranges should be picked and exported from October to December as this is the best time for the English market and agrees well with the time of the early crop in Sierra Leone.

Grapefruit of the Marsh and Foster varieties has been favourably reported on, and the growth of these varieties and especially the former, can be safely recommended.

Pineapples as an export crop are still in the experimental stage. Conditions of transport and storage are still being considered, and it is hoped that with improved methods of transport fruit will normally reach England in a satisfactory condition. Fruit which has reached England in a suitable condition was favourably reported upon and had a ready sale.

Live Stock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the live stock of this country. Cattle-farming is carried out on a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country, and pigs to a small extent. There are a few horses, the majority of which also come from French territory. The value of the exports in hides (mainly untanned) amounted in 1932 to £1,219 and in 1933 to £1,335.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1933 amounted to £825,869 as compared with £1,248,346 in 1932, being a decrease of £422,477.

The following tables show the value of imports by classes during the last two years :—

	1932.	1933.	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Commercial imports	1,182,134	788,607	—	393,527
Government imports	37,504	28,501	—	9,003
Specie	28,708	8,761	—	19,947
Total ...	£1,248,346	£825,869	—	£422,477

	1932.	1933.	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Class I—Food, drink, and tobacco	247,463	210,506	—	36,957
Class II—Raw materials etc. ...	52,480	38,920	—	13,560
Class III—Articles mainly manufactured.	886,585	541,611	—	344,974
Class IV—Miscellaneous	33,060	26,005	—	7,055
Class V—Bullion and specie ...	28,758	8,827	—	19,931
Total	£1,248,346	£825,869	—	£422,477

A decrease was general throughout each class.

In Class I, the following articles are mainly responsible for the deficit of £36,957—flour £3,192 (845 cwt.), rice £2,690 (3,526 cwt.), aerated and mineral waters £877 (1,812 dozen bottles), milk £708 (134 cwt.), common salt £2,581 (583 tons), onions £1,008, vegetables (preserved) £1,425, spirits £1,387 (288 gallons), wines £828 (299 gallons), unmanufactured tobacco £13,396 (130,226 lb.), beer, &c., £5,376 (23,029 gallons), cigarettes £1,016 (1,186 lb.).

Class II recorded a decrease of £13,560. Commercial coal decreased by £8,747 (6,373 tons), and that of Government £4,315 (2,002 tons). Lumber fell by £3,270 (201,544 superficial feet).

Class III in which is recorded the greatest deficit during the year fell in value from £886,585 to £541,611. The decrease under this head was, with few exceptions, general. Slight increases were, however, recorded in bags and sacks (empty) £1,267, implements and tools (artisans) £1,361, implements and tools (other kinds) £1,461, and boots and shoes other than leather £1,139 (70,026 pairs). An appreciable increase was recorded in electrical and telegraphic apparatus due to imports by the Sierra Leone Development Company, in connexion with their railway and mining plant.

The greatest decrease appeared in cotton piece-goods £138,418 (5,050,239 square yards), other cottons £25,707, wool (other kinds) £6,247, artificial silk manufactures £1,781, metals (other kinds) £73,696, cement £5,301 (1,733 tons), apparel £24,510, hats, caps and bonnets £6,062, medicines and drugs £2,251, oil illuminating £7,912 (109,601 gallons), oil lubricating £2,645 (18,518 gallons), motor spirit £7,605 (114,593 gallons), soap (other kinds) £1,349 (522 cwt.), motor vehicles £5,667 (34), ships and boats mechanically propelled £1,877 (4), beads (other kinds) £1,028 (4,415 lb.), perfumery £2,779, spirit perfumed £937 (218 gallons), stationery £1,479, umbrellas and parasols £1,901 (13,883).

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piece-goods for the years 1929 to 1933 :—

Year.	*Quantity.* sq. yds.	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1929	5,837,797	204,926	37,042
1930	5,132,718	156,556	28,947
1931	5,014,822	121,960	22,302
1932	11,169,367	262,959	48,651
1933	6,129,891	124,702	24,047

The figures relating to other cotton goods were :—

Year.	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1929 ...	97,157	17,235
1930	66,823	12,013
1931	39,589	6,846
1932	67,187	12,368
1933	41,919	7,718

Countries from which commodities come.

The principal items of imports from the United Kingdom were cotton piece-goods £97,733 (4,935,299 square yards), other cottons £37,517, artificial silk piece goods £5,402 (184,281 square yards), corrugated iron sheets £6,146 (412 tons), buckets, pails and basins £3,661 (11,258 dozen), metals (other kinds) £30,917, cement £7,105 (2,476 tons), implements and tools (artisans) £2,453, electrical and telegraphic apparatus £15,416, machinery—mining and gold dredging £5,227, machinery—railway and tramway £3,546, machinery—other kinds £8,738, apparel £6,745, boots and shoes leather £4,080 (12,089 pairs), hats and caps £3,697, medicines and drugs £9,633, paints and colours £3,593 (1,595 cwt), candles £2,992 (1,256 cwt.), soap (toilet) £1,798 (372 cwt.), common soap £2,553 (1,628 cwt.), motor-cars £7,222 (48), rubber tyres £3,339 (51,715 lb.), perfumery £2,812, stationery £5,658, milk £4,338 (1,355 cwt.), flour £2,296 (3,520 cwt.), meats—fresh £3,300 (664 cwts.), oil edible £3,633 (120 tons), provisions £7,745, salt—other kinds £14,111 (2,911 tons), beer £8,536 (47,152 gallons), sugar £4,036 (6,110 cwt.), cigarettes £12,338 (40,925 lb.), coal £27,126 (20,168 tons), and whisky £4,776 (4,045 gallons).

The United States of America supplied unmanufactured tobacco £45,265 (1,081,593 lb.), oil fuel £3,404 (110,703 gallons), kerosene £14,181 (245,954 gallons), lubricating oil £1,926 (12,893 gallons), motor spirit £12,645 (227,851 gallons), lard £1,094 (293 cwt.), milk £1,318 (456 cwt.), and lumber £3,284 (260,105 superficial feet).

British possessions (other than West African) provided bags and sacks (empty) £31,459 (105,202 dozen), motor vehicles £1,030 (9), flour £17,620 (26,973 cwt.), tea £1,336 (9,724 lb.), rum £526 (1,182 gallons), lumber £1,298 (104,882 superficial feet), tobacco unmanufactured £923 (21,145 lb.).

Japan provided artificial silk piece goods £7,937 (353,332 square yards), apparel £13,457, boots and shoes other than leather £6,413 (136,505 pairs), cotton piece-goods £10,236 (719,366 square yards).

The chief imports from France were brandy £969 (720 gallons), wines £2,481 (10,353 gallons), spirit perfumed £522 (160 gallons), artificial silk piece goods £1,051 (20,321 square yards), cotton piece goods £717 (39,240 square yards).

Holland furnished gin £683 (1,490 gallons), wines £1,122 (3,805 gallons), and cottons unenumerated £903.

Salt—other kinds £5,658 (1,353 tons), beer £3,817 (20,592 gallons), sugar £1,283 (1,715 cwt.), wines £1,049 (5,217 gallons), lamps and lanterns £1,037 (945 dozen), metals—other kinds £2,148, clay pipes £711 (5,032 gross), hats and caps £3,728, beads other than real coral £1,348 (7,301 lb.) came from Germany.

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony decreased from £932,773 in 1932 to £783,943. The value of domestic exports alone fell by £124,494. Specie exports decreased by £21,893.

Exports are valued as they lie on the exporting ship; such value includes export duty, cost of packages and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following table is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1932 and 1933 :—

		1932.		1933.	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£
Benniseed	tons	120	1,122	14	125
Cocoa, raw	tons	81	1,295	67	990
Diamonds	carats	748	1,497	26,901	73,266
Ginger...	cwt.	27,639	22,877	30,902	16,544
Hides	lb.	60,802	1,219	7,379	348
Kola nuts	cwt.	41,708	41,373	36,236	43,656
Palm kernels	tons	77,162	687,477	64,083	472,824
Palm oil	tons	2,208	26,914	1,617	17,637
Peppers	lb.	150,273	2,162	155,190	1,486
Piassava	tons	2,877	23,290	3,500	30,108
Platinum	oz.	494	4,492	325	2,484
Rice	tons	554	4,054	3,170	1,671
Gold	oz.	12,247	58,917	14,975	84,010
Gum copal	tons	—	—	54	2,675

Palm Kernels.—Although the quantity exported during the year, 64,083 tons (as compared with 77,152 tons in 1932) was well up to the average of the years prior to 1932, a severe setback was recorded in the value. The home market price, which was the lowest on record, ranged from £10 1s. 8d. in January to £7 19s. 8d. in December and averaged throughout the year £8 15s. 7d. When it is remembered that in 1929 the average home market price was £18 2s. 4d. a ton, or more than double that of the price quoted in 1933, it will be realized what a serious effect this drop in value has had on the prosperity of this Colony.

Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 28,202 tons, an increase of 3,512 tons as compared with the quantity exported in 1932. For the first time on record the United Kingdom purchased a greater quantity of kernels than Germany, which country fell to second place with 21,081 tons as against 33,896 tons in the previous year. Exports to Holland fell from 16,627 tons to 11,935 tons, and to the United States of America from 1,570 tons to 384 tons. Poland recorded an initial purchase of 2,481 tons.

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years :—

Year.	*Quantity.* *Tons.*	*Value.* *£*
1929	60,205	876,308
1930	56,641	664,591
1931	54,462	449,742
1932	77,162	687,477
1933	64,083	472,824

Palm Oil.—The total shipment of palm oil in 1933 amounted to 1,617 tons valued at £17,637, a decrease in quantity and value of 591 tons, and £9,277. The United Kingdom, as in previous years, appropriated the bulk of this oil, 1,461 tons; Gambia purchased 134 tons and the United States of America 21 tons. The average European price per ton was £14 19s., a decrease of approximately £1 14s. on the price recorded in 1932. The total quantity exported is by no means representative of the Colony and Protectorate, as large quantities of the oil produced are consumed locally.

Kola Nuts.—Although there was a falling away in shipments of 5,472 cwt. as compared with 1932, the value of kola nuts exported increased by £2,283. The average local market price improved from £1 3s. per measure (176 lb.) in 1932 to £1 17s. 1d. in 1933. Shipments to the Gambia increased by 492 cwt. and to Portuguese Guinea by 820 cwt., while a decrease of 5,954 cwt. was recorded to Nigeria.

The gradual decrease in shipments to the Senegal, to which reference has been made in past reports, was very marked during 1933, the total quantity shipped being 188 cwt. as compared with 973 cwt. in the previous year. The loss of the Senegal market has proved a serious blow to the kola trade of this Colony.

Ginger.—The export of ginger compared favourably with that of the previous year, 30,902 cwt. having been shipped as against 27,639 cwt. in 1932. Market prices, however, declined, resulting in a decrease in value of £6,333. The United States of America took 14,360 cwt. or 46·47 per cent. of the total crop, followed by the United Kingdom with 13,998 cwt. or 45·30 per cent. The European market price averaged 19s. a cwt. as compared with £1 3s. 5d. in 1932.

Piassava.—Shipments of piassava increased from 2,877 tons, valued at £23,290, to 3,500 tons valued at £30,108. These figures constitute a record. The efforts of the Agricultural Department in endeavouring to improve the quality and so prevent badly-cleaned or adulterated produce from being exported would appear to have at last borne fruit. The home market price fell from £24 10s. in January to £22 10s. in December and averaged throughout the year £22 18s. 2d. Of the total shipment the United Kingdom purchased 1,539 tons, an increase of 677 tons as compared with 1932. Exports to Germany, which country had previously appropriated the bulk of the piassava exported, fell from 1,637 tons to 1,010 tons.

The United States of America, Belgium, and Holland purchased 458 tons, 289 tons, and 101 tons respectively. Exports to South Africa increased from 55 tons to 83 tons.

Diamonds.—Exports increased from 748 carats valued at £1,497 to 26,901 carats of a value of £73,266, or an increase of 26,153 carats (£71,769).

Gold.—An increase of 2,728 oz. (troy) valued at £25,093 was reported in the export of raw gold. The total shipments amounted to 14,975 oz. (troy) (£84,010) as compared with 12,247 oz. (troy) (£58,917) in the previous year.

Platinum.—Shipments of platinum again recorded a decrease, 325 oz. (troy), valued at £2,484, having been exported as compared with 494 oz. (troy), of a value of £4,492, in 1932. All minerals exported went to the United Kingdom.

Direction of Trade.

The following comparative table shows the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years :—

Year.	*Total imports less specie.*	*Re-exports less specie.*	*Net imports.*	*Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.*	*Excess of net imports over domestic exports.*	*Customs duty on imports and exports.*	*Tonnage of shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1929 ...	1,667,252	180,309	1,486,943	1,319,453	167,490	508,139	4,812,566
1930 ...	1,335,731	141,066	1,194,665	1,047,340	147,325	428,369	4,621,121
1931 ...	991,120	75,376	915,744	616,337	299,407	340,056	3,927,457
1932 ...	1,219,588	20,749	1,198,839	878,424	320,415	452,880	3,286,299
1933 ...	817,108	18,306	798,802	753,930	44,872	371,686	3,509,799

The export figures for 1932 and 1933 do not include shipments to the high seas.

Of the total import trade of £825,869 in 1933, the United Kingdom contributed £489,233 or 59·24 per cent. as compared with 65·86 per cent. in 1932. The percentage decrease in respect of the total import trade of the British Empire was, however, only 1·50 per cent. This decrease cannot be taken as a true state of affairs in respect of Empire imports into the Colony as for the first four months of 1932 imports were not posted according to country of origin. Further heavy importations of canvas shoes, wearing apparel, artificial silk and cottons from Japan, at a price incomparable with the British product, flooded the local market; but for this fact the Empire percentage proportion of the value of the total import trade would have recorded an increase.

The United States of America accounted for £90,125 or 10·91 per cent., British possessions (other than West African) contributed £80,563 or 9·76 per cent. as compared with 4·39 per cent. in 1932. Japan followed with 5·20 per cent. as against 1·86 per cent. in 1932. Germany fell from third to sixth place with 4·06 per cent. as compared with 5·23 per cent. in the previous year.

Of the gross export trade of £772,236, £423,143 or 54·79 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, an increase of 15·09 per cent. over 1932. The total value of merchandise shipped to the United Kingdom amounted to £339,133 as against £277,839 in the previous year, a decrease of £61,294. £159,229 or 20·62 per cent. went to Germany, £85,143 or 11·03 per cent. to Holland, £52,515 or 6·80 per cent. to British West African Possessions and £18,657 or 2·42 per cent. to the United States of America.

Of the total aggregate trade of the Colony the United Kingdom claimed 57·09 per cent., an increase of 2·42 per cent., Germany followed with 12·06 per cent. as against 17·24 per cent.; the United States of America came next with 6·81 per cent., a decrease of ·66 per cent. Holland and British Possessions (other than West African) took 5·78 per cent., and 5·17 per cent. or a decrease and increase respectively of 2·08 per cent. and 2·59 per cent.

By introducing preferential duties and granting a considerable measure of preference to the Empire article, this Colony has done all in its power to foster and develop Empire Trade.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (Public Works).—In Freetown during 1933, Public Works Department artisans were paid from 3s. to 4s. per day for journeymen and 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per day for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at rates in excess of 4s. per day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. for improvers and 2s. 6d. to 4s. for journeymen.

Labourers (Public Works).—In Freetown the rate of pay for ordinary unskilled labour was 1s. per day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 1s. 6d.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 6d. to 9d. per day, while the rates of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 9d. to 2s. per day.

Railway workers.—The following table gives the minimum, maximum, and average rates of pay of railway workers :—

Grade.	*Minimum.*		*Maximum.*		*Average rate per diem paid in* 1933.	
Traffic—	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Station porters ...	0	6	1	3	1	1
Pointsmen	1	3	2	0	1	7
Shunter pointsmen ...	1	6	3	0	2	6
Watchmen	0	6	2	0	0	11
Yard foremen	2	6	6	6	4	0
Telegraph messengers	—		—		0	11
Caretakers	0	6	1	3	0	10
Train porters	0	9	1	6	1	4
Trolley boys	1	0	1	6	1	4
Lampmen	0	9	2	0	1	3
Engineering—						
Timekeepers	2	9	6	6	4	1½
Artisans	2	6	10	0	3	6
Apprentices	1	0	2	6	1	11½
Headmen	1	9	2	9	1	11
Telegraph linesmen ...	1	3	5	6	2	0
Telegraph labourers ...	1	0	1	9	1	1
Labourers (skilled) ...	1	3	1	9	1	5
Labourers (unskilled) ...	0	6	1	3	0	11
Locomotive and carriage—						
Artisans	2	6	10	0	4	4
Gatemen	1	6	4	0	2	3
Storemen	2	9	6	6	3	3
Shops clerks	3	0	5	0	3	0
Tools clerks	1	3	6	6	2	6
Timekeepers	2	9	6	6	3	0
Brakesmen	0	9	1	6	0	10½
Carriage cleaners ...	0	9	4	0	1	2
Coalmen	0	9	3	0	1	1
Strikers	1	3	2	6	1	7

Grade.	*Minimum.*	*Maximum.*	*Average rate per diem paid in* 1933.
Locomotive and carriage—cont.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Drivers (pumping and stationary engines) ...	1 3	4 0	2 4½
Drivers (crane) ...	1 6	5 0	3 0
Engine cleaners ...	0 9	4 0	1 2
Greasers	1 3	4 0	1 9
Lighters-up	1 3	3 0	1 5
Pumpmen	0 9	1 6	0 8
Passed firemen ...	3 0	5 3	3 7
Firemen	1 9	2 6	2 0
Crane firemen	1 0	1 6	1 4
Washers-out ...	1 3	3 0	2 3
Labourers (skilled) ...	1 3	1 9	1 6
Labourers (unskilled)	0 6	1 3	1 1
Furnacemen	1 9	3 0	1 10½
Painters	1 6	6 0	2 6
Apprentices	1 0	2 6	1 9½
Holders up	1 3	2 6	1 11

The average rates during 1933 are rather lower than in the previous year owing to changes in staff. The standard rates are the same as were introduced in 1926.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of living.

Cost of living for labouring classes.—There was no substantial change in the cost of living during the year.

The staple food for labouring classes most nearly corresponding to the 4-lb. loaf is the " kettle " of rice but as rice is supplemented by " foo-foo " (cassava) to a greater or lesser extent according to the purchasing powers of the individual, it does not provide such a " yard-stick " as the 4-lb. loaf does in the United Kingdom. The present price of a kettle of rice (21 lb.) is 1s. 6d.; a labourer's family of five will probably consume from 1½ to 2 kettles of rice per week.

The artisan's family will probably consume less rice but will substitute a larger amount of " foo-foo ". Artisans also eat a certain amount of bread and fish.

The staple food-stuffs of the subordinate railway staff are, as for the labouring classes, rice, cassava, palm oil, etc. It may be taken that the average cost of living for the majority of the daily-wage staff (including labourers) is from 6d. to 8d. a day for themselves and family. More highly paid railway artisans, however, have a higher standard of living as for other artisans.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

An Education Ordinance passed in 1929 provides a complete code for all Colony and Protectorate Schools. Separate Schedules of Rules which apply to the Colony and Protectorate respectively, differ in the important means of providing Government grants-in-aid.

In the Colony the schools are conducted by Boards of Managers as a result of the amalgamation of the Mission primary schools. The Managers are responsible for the upkeep of the school buildings, but the Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment in the primary schools. All school fees are paid into Government revenue.

The secondary schools on the Assisted List in the Colony receive capitation and equipment grants-in-aid. Grants are also paid to qualified teachers.

In the Protectorate, the assisted schools receive capitation, building, and equipment grants, but the salaries of the teachers are paid by the Mission authorities. Additional grants to qualified teachers in the Protectorate are paid by Government.

Colony Schools.—In the Colony there are at present 51 assisted primary schools with 7,071 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 5,227.

The assisted secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows:—

Boys—6 schools with 94 primary, 257 preparatory, and 331 secondary pupils.

Girls—5 schools with 506 primary, 103 preparatory, and 120 secondary pupils.

Included in the boys' secondary schools is the Prince of Wales School, established and maintained entirely by Government. This school makes special provision for the teaching of science and for technical instruction, and is liberally equipped with laboratories and workshops.

There are also four assisted schools in the Colony providing technical training—the Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), the Diocesan Technical School (carpentry, surveying, and building construction), the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry and cabinet making) and the American Methodist Episcopal Girls' Industrial School (domestic science and arts).

With regard to the education of girls, domestic science in all its branches forms a most important part of their curriculum. A special examination is held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas are awarded to successful students. Provision is also made at the Roman Catholic Convent School for instruction in this subject to girls who have already left school and are contemplating marriage. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

Scholarships tenable at the Women Teachers' Training College at Wilberforce are awarded to girls from the secondary schools. The College is residential and is financed and largely controlled by Government.

Higher education for boys is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University. Arts, theological, and science courses are provided.

A separate course for the training of men teachers is also provided at the Fourah Bay College. Residential scholarships are awarded annually by Government, which also finances the scheme for teacher training.

Protectorate Schools.—In the Protectorate 10 missionary authorities conduct 87 assisted schools with 4,593 boys and 1,220 girls on the rolls. In addition, these bodies conduct 82 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 2,123 pupils.

Government controls 9 boys' schools in the Protectorate with 439 pupils. These, with the exception of the Bo School and the Koyeima School, are rural schools of junior grades.

Bo School.—The Bo School was established by Government in 1906 for the education of the sons and nominees of chiefs. It aims at providing the boys with a liberal education in preparation for the important work they will probably be called upon to undertake in connexion with their chiefdoms. Hygiene and sanitation, town-planning, building, and hand and eye training are important parts of the curriculum.

Koyeima School.—The Central School at Koyeima is intended to provide education for Protectorate youths beyond that given in the primary schools. The school provides an adequate training in such technical subjects as woodwork, building, tailoring, wood-carving, surveying, town-planning, and agriculture, and will also, it is hoped, in time become the centre for the training of Protectorate teachers.

Music, etc.—The natives of Sierra Leone have a gift for music—both vocal and instrumental. Most of the large churches and chapels have pipe organs which are played by African organists. Many Africans, too, show skill on the pianoforte and other instruments. The band of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force, is an outstanding example of how far musical art can be developed.

A special music master has been engaged to teach singing on correct lines in the schools, and very good results have been achieved. Naturally, the children excel in rendering negro spirituals, but they have made great progress in music of a more classical nature. An annual singing competition has been inaugurated among the schools and this has been highly appreciated and the competition is very keen.

Dramatic art is being encouraged to some extent and the students of the secondary schools are proving apt pupils.

Welfare Institutions.

There are no orphanages or Poor Law institutions in the Colony and Protectorate. Government, however, provides a certain sum yearly as a grant towards the relief of the poor in the Colony, which sum is disbursed by Charity Commissioners. In the Protectorate native customs demand that the poor and sick be looked after by the people of the chiefdom concerned.

As regards members of the native races living in Freetown, the Tribal Administration Ordinance empowers the Tribal Headmen to levy a small toll on the members of his tribe for the following objects, *inter alia*:—

(*a*) the relief of the poor and sick,

(*b*) the burial of the poor having no relatives at time of death,

(*c*) relief of any member of the tribe in distress.

There are also in existence many Friendly Societies whose object is the relief of the members in time of distress and death.

Mental Home.

There is a Mental Home at Kissy, about 5 miles from Freetown.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads; there is, however, a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road from Hill Station, two miles in length, affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 50 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 30 miles are motorable—the principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—A very considerable road programme was carried out by the Public Works Department in the Protectorate between 1928 and 1932, and at the end of 1932, including approximately 250 miles completed previous to 1928, nearly 820 miles of motor roads had been completed, of which about 20 miles are not now maintained. In general the Protectorate motor roads are 16 feet in width and are surfaced with laterite gravel. The majority of bridges are built of steel joists, with concrete abutments and piers, and timber decking. A number of timber bridges still remain, and these are being replaced as their condition requires and funds permit. In addition there are about 200 miles of Chiefs' roads suitable for motor transport at most times of the year.

There are fifteen ferries in the Protectorate for transporting motor vehicles over the large rivers, in cases where the width of the river has rendered the construction of a bridge financially impracticable. The ferries consist of pontoons of steel or timber connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled carriage moving on steel cable-ways supported by steel towers on the banks. The pontoons are propelled across the river partly by the current and partly by steel wire hand-hauling lines.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1933 was 311 miles and the gauge 2 feet 6 inches.

Capital expenditure of the railway to 31st December, 1933, was £1,742,018.

The total revenue of the railway was £145,594, which shows a decrease of £14,268 below the figure for the previous year. The depression in trade which manifested itself in 1930 continued throughout the year under review. The revenue includes £1,346 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £205,722 which shows a reduction of £11,972 as compared with 1932. This total includes £89,797 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Working expenditure amounted to £157,323 and gross receipts to £145,594.

Passenger journeys in the year were 373,161, a decrease of 34,988 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 54,866 tons against 66,024 in 1932.

	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 3·44	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88
Working expenses per mile	5 1·09*	9 2·55	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98
Passengers carried ...	438,388	604,737	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	78,385	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024	54,866

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles, and 314 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of 5 miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, in the western seaboard of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1933 consisted of six passenger vehicles and two goods lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 231,149 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,333.

The staff employed was:—

Europeans	1
Africans	20
Total	21

Postal Business.

There was a further slight falling off in postal business during 1933 due to the continuance throughout the year of the depression in trade. Postal business was conducted from 13 post offices and 60 postal agencies; money order business from 23 and postal order business from 61 offices.

The total revenue collected was £22,248 as against a sum of £24,265 in the previous year. Of this amount £15,654 was derived from direct postal revenue, £5,026 from Customs duty on parcels, and £1,568 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds dealt with during the year was 1,873,200 as compared with 1,922,147 in 1932. Included therein are 72,386 registered articles.

Money order transactions decreased from 4,158 (value £27,931) in 1932 to 3,590 (value £24,099) in 1933.

The total number and value of postal orders issued during the year (43,598 and £27,027) and also the number and value of postal orders paid (36,762 and £23,579) showed decrease on the corresponding figures for the previous year which were—orders issued 47,735 value £30,154, orders paid 39,330 value £26,259.

The parcel post transactions showed a falling off, 29,554 parcels being handled as against 33,220 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (within Great Britain only), 6,488 parcels were received (value £10,659) as compared with 8,154 (value £14,681) in 1932.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo;

this system is connected up by branches with most of the district headquarters in the Protectorate. The total mileage is 1,126¾ miles, plus the railway traffic control line of 455 miles.

Telephones.

The only service is that in Freetown and district, maintained by the Railway Department. The total mileage is 377¾ miles.

Cables and Wireless.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short wave-lengths.

Shipping.

There was an increase of 27 in the number of steam and motor vessels entering ports in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 107,586. Of a total of 1,754,039 tons entered, 55·7 per cent. was British, 9·24 per cent. French, 8·65 per cent. American, 8·03 per cent. German and 5·84 per cent. Italian.

The following table gives details of nationality and tonnage entered during the year :—

Steam and Motor Vessels entered.

Nationality.	*Number.*	*Tonnage.*	*Percentage proportion to total tonnage.*
American	46	151,689	8·65
British	315	976,916	55·70
Danish	12	17,377	0·99
Dutch	33	79,933	4·56
Esthonian	—	—	—
Finnish	9	12,753	0·72
French	41	162,055	9·24
German	55	140,943	8·03
Italian	34	102,387	5·84
Norwegian	4	5,812	0·33
Panama	2	6,338	0·36
Spanish	31	72,650	4·14
Swedish	11	25,186	1·44
Totals	593	1,754,039	100·00

Of the above vessels, 11 entered at Sherbro, 2 at Mano Salija and 28 at Sulima.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports :—

Line.	*From*	*Frequency of calls.*
American West African Line ...	New York	Every 20 days with general cargo.
Compania Transmediterranea ...	Barcelona	Passengers monthly.
Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd. ...	United Kingdom ports.	Passengers fortnightly; cargo frequently.
do. do. ...	Continental ports ...	Fortnightly.
do. do. ...	Canada	Monthly.
Fabre-Fraissinet	Marseilles	Monthly.
Holland West African Lijn ...	Hamburg, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Passengers monthly; cargo monthly.
Navigazione Triestine Libera ...	Genoa, coast ports ...	Cargo monthly.
Woermann Linie	Hamburg, Southampton and continental ports.	Passengers monthly.
do. do.	Hamburg, Amsterdam.	Cargo monthly.
United Africa Company Ltd. ...	Liverpool, coast ports.	Cargo monthly.

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes, and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about 4 tons. During recent years motor launches have come into use and this form of water transport appears to be growing increasingly popular with the natives.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony—Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima, and Mano Salija.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers saving bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with twenty agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1933, was £64,765.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered, precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;
West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;
West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and
West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d. and ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metal of the same denominations and of the same standard weights, and authorized by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s. were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denominations were put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

The use of and the inspection of weights and measures in Sierra Leone are regulated by the Weights and Measures Ordinance (Cap. 233) and Rules made thereunder. The legal units employed are the pound avoirdupois, the gallon, the yard, and the square yard.

The Sierra Leone standards of weights and measures are:—

Length.—An imperial standard yard graduated to parts of one-eighth part of an inch.

Avoirdupois Weight.—112 lb. or 1 cwt., 56 lb. or ½ cwt., 28 lb. or 1 quarter, 14 lb. or 1 stone, 7 lb., 4 lb., 2 lb., 1 lb., ½ lb., ¼ lb., 1 oz., ½ oz., ¼ oz.

Measures of Capacity.—1 bushel, ½ bushel, 1 peck, 1 gallon, ½ gallon, 1 quart, 1 pint, ½ pint, ¼ pint or gill.

The Sierra Leone standards were verified by the Board of Trade in England before being brought into use. Copies of these standards have been procured duly authenticated as secondary standards and issued to Deputy Inspectors.

Deputy Inspectors of Weights and Measures carry out periodical inspection of weights and measures and weighing machines in all trade centres and stamp those found to be just and accurate.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to financial depression the work of canalizing Sanders Brook was shut down early in 1932 after the completion of approximately 1,000 lineal yards of canal. It is hoped to continue this work in 1934. No public works of any magnitude have been undertaken.

Electric Light and Power.

An Electric Light and Power Scheme, put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal has both civil and criminal jurisdiction in appeal cases arising in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia; its Judges consist of the Judges of the Supreme Courts of those Colonies, together with the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, the President of the Court being the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast. The Court sits at Accra for hearing of cases sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Gold Coast, and at Freetown for those sent up from the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Supreme Court of the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court* (*Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal, of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) ***Magistrates' Courts*** (***Cap.*** 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) ***Courts of Requests*** (***Cap.*** 43).

These are Courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows :—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court."

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " the District Court ".

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to the supervision of the District Commissioners who can amend, vary, or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as "Joint Judges" to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner, who can review its decisions in all cases.

Return of Cases tried in District Courts in the Protectorate during 1933.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number imprisoned.*	*Number otherwise punished.*	*Number discharged.*
Moyamba	102	27	51	24
Bo	165	21	101	43
Kenema	138	18	66	54
Kailahun	63	17	35	11
Pujehun	162	25	104	33
Bonthe and Shebar ...	278	36	174	68
Kambia	100	11	67	22
Port Loko	133	49	62	22
Karene	92	7	83	2
Bombali	125	44	55	26
Koinadugu	31	2	19	10
Kono	51	9	31	11
Headquarters Jud. District	241	71	106	64
	1,681	337	954	390

Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, in 1933.

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons discharged.*	*Remarks.*
Assault and battery ...	67	81	64	17	—
Harbour offences ...	53	66	65	1	—
Stowaways	12	12	10	2	—
Customs offence ...	58	71	58	13	—
Housebreaking	74	5		—	Committed for trial in the Supreme Court.
Burglary...	25	7	—	—	„
Larceny	418	454	373	81	—
„	—	3	—	—	„
Larceny from ship ...	5	8	5	3	—
Public health offence ...	64	75	73	2	—
Shop breaking	44	4	—	—	„
Larceny from a house ...	65	67	57	10	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law.	1	1	1	—	—
Selling palm wine without a licence.	28	28	25	3	—
Disorderly conduct ...	36	55	48	7	—
Fighting	20	40	36	4	—
Drunk	18	18	18	—	—
Wounding	9	13	6	7	—
„	—	4	—	—	„
		Juvenile Offenders.			
Larceny	39	39	39	—	—
Assault and battery ...	1	1	1	—	—
Throwing stones ...	2	2	2	—	—
Trespass	3	3	3	—	—
Committing nuisance ...	—	—	—	—	—

Return of Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1933.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number of persons imprisoned.*	*Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.*	*Number of persons condemned.*	*Number of persons discharged.*
Port Loko	12	5	2	1	4
Makeni	5	3	—	1	1
Kambia	3	2	1	—	—
Karene	2	—	—	1	1
Bo	5	3	—	2	—
Kailahun...	5	4	—	—	1
Kenema	20	8	—	—	12
Moyamba	7	6	1	—	—
Pujehun	2	1	—	—	1
Bonthe	1	1	—	—	—
	62	33	4	5	20

Police.

The Police Force is organized under the Police Ordinance, Cap. 156 of the Laws of the Colony. The authorized strength of the Force consists of 1 Commissioner, 3 Assistant Commissioners (Europeans), 1 Inspector and 2 Sub-Inspectors (Africans), 1 Sergeant-Major, 30 Sergeants, 58 First Class Constables, 76 Second Class Constables, and 100 Third Class Constables.

Rules in respect of the following have been made under the Ordinance :—

Lost Property,
Leave,
Good Conduct, and
Dress.

The duties of the Force are concerned with the preservation of the peace, prevention and detection of crime, or other infractions of the Law; and, for these purposes, members of the Force are invested with all the powers, authorities, privileges, and immunities, and are liable to all the duties and responsibilities conferred, or imposed, upon Constables by the Ordinance, by the Common Law of England.

Enlistment is for five years, the first year being probationary, followed by a further term of five years and thereafter any term between one and five years. All probationers undergo a full course of six months' training before being drafted to full duty. The course of instruction consists of education and general police duties.

Prisons.

There are now eleven prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows :—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons : Kambia, Port Loko, Batkanu, Kabala, Makeni. Southern Province, local prisons : Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Masanki.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the years 1932 and 1933 was as follows :—

	1932.	1933.
Males	716	862
Females	16	11
Juveniles	17	21

The total daily average number in custody was :—

1932.	1933.
263	264

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the years 1932 and 1933 was :—

	1932.	1933.
Males	1,129	1,098
Females	3	1

The daily average number in custody was 176, as against 166 in 1932.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was 7, compared with 10 in 1932.

Industrial.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and planting fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of rice-milling, tailoring, tarpaulin and mattress making, bread making, and carpentry.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1933 were :—

The Railway Superfluous Lands Ordinance, 1933;
The Folded Woven Goods Ordinance, 1933;
The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance, 1933;
The Freetown Municipality Building Scheme Ordinance, 1933;
The Midwives Ordinance, 1933;
The Coroners (Amendment) Ordinance, 1933;
The Fruit Export Ordinance, 1933;
The Interpretation Ordinance, 1933;
The Protectorate Ordinance, 1933.

Of these Ordinances the *Interpretation Ordinance*, 1933, and the *Protectorate Ordinance*, 1933, are mainly a consolidation of existing legislation. The existing Ordinances dealing with the same subjects had been subject to numerous amendments and it was thought desirable to consolidate all the provisions of the various enactments for the purposes of easier reference. In the case of the Interpretation Ordinance, 1933, the opportunity was taken to incorporate certain provisions which have been found to be of general utility in similar Ordinances in other Colonies. The Protectorate Ordinance, 1933, in addition to consolidating and amending the existing legislation dealing with the administration of the Protectorate embodies such of the provisions of the Protectorate Native Law Ordinance, 1924 (which is now repealed) as are usefully capable of enforcement at the present time.

The Railway Superfluous Lands Ordinance, 1933, enables the Governor to dispose of land taken for the Sierra Leone Government Railway and which is no longer required owing to the abandonment of the line connecting Freetown with Hill Station; the Railway Ordinance, 1924, under which the land was acquired contains no provision enabling it to be sold.

The Folded Woven Goods Ordinance, 1933, was passed as the result of a request made to the Secretary of State by several Chambers of Commerce in England that the Ordinance on this subject should be uniform throughout the four British West African Colonies. The existing Nigerian Ordinance was adopted as the model.

The Freetown Municipality Building Scheme Ordinance, 1933, creates a fund out of which the City Council of Freetown can make advances, upon good and sufficient security, for the improvements of buildings within the City. Such advances are at a low rate of interest, are free from the usual expenses of raising a loan and are repayable on such terms as may be arranged between the City Council and the person on whose behalf the advance is made. The contractor performing the work is appointed by the City Council and advances are paid direct to him subject to satisfactory completion of the work. Premises can be insured by the City Council at the ultimate expense of the owner. All advances are a first charge on the premises concerned against all persons into whose hand they may come.

The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance, 1933, prohibits the slaughter of cattle at places, other than public slaughter houses, except upon a licence issued by the City Council. Under the principal Ordinance cattle could be slaughtered anywhere provided that the carcases were not intended for sale. This provision led to many cattle being slaughtered under non-hygienic conditions without expert inspection; there is little doubt that a considerable proportion of this meat was sold.

The Midwives Ordinance, 1933, establishes a Midwives Board whose functions are to regulate the course of training in midwifery, to hold qualifying examinations and issue certificates of competency, to regulate the practice of registered midwives, supervise their behaviour and where necessary, to exercise disciplinary powers. It is further provided that in the City of Freetown midwifery can only be practised by qualified medical practitioners and midwives of whom there are two recognized classes, (*a*) registered midwives, and (*b*) persons who have been engaged in the practice of midwifery for at least two years to the satisfaction of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services and whose names are entered accordingly by him in a List of Unqualified Midwives. It is hoped in time to extend this restriction to other parts of the country when trained midwives become more numerous. The Ordinance, which comes into force on the 1st July, 1934, provides machinery for this extension.

The main object of the *Coroners (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1933, was to relieve the Coroner of a legal compulsion to view the dead body in every case. In the vast majority of cases no useful purpose is served by such a view and the delay in burying a dead body which on occasion results from the fulfilment of that duty is dangerous to the health of the community. The matter is now within the Coroner's discretion except that he must view the dead body in the case of an inquest following upon an execution.

The Fruit Export Ordinance, 1933, was passed with the object of improving the quality of fruit exported from the Colony and the methods of packing and shipping such fruit. In the recent past many shipments of fruit have received unfavourable criticism from English fruit brokers.

The following are the more important subordinate legislative instruments which came into force during the year :—

The Import Prohibition Order in Council, 1933, which prohibited the importation into the Colony or Protectorate of any goods which either resembled currency notes or coins or have a representation of currency notes or coins depicted upon them.

The Survey of Boats (Application to Freetown Harbour) Order in Council, 1933, which applied the Survey of Boats Ordinance, 1932, to Freetown Harbour and appointed Surveyors.

The Wild Game (Amendment) Rules, 1933, which prohibited the use of bright lamps for the hunting of wild animals and made the possession of such a lamp, without lawful excuse, an offence.

The Banded Duicker and Cobus Antelope Protection Rules, 1933, which made it an offence to kill or capture a banded duicker and prohibited the hunting of the cobus antelope by natives except under licence.

The European Reserve Force Rules, 1933, which prescribe the method of application for enrolment and the conditions of service in the Reserve Force created by the Ordinance of the previous year.

The Cinematograph Exhibitions Rules, 1933, which appoints authorities to licence premises for cinematograph exhibitions and provides for applications to those authorities and to the Board of Control appointed to censor cinematograph films.

The Arms and Ammunition Rules, 1933, which consolidate and bring up to date the existing subordinate legislation dealing with the importation and possession of arms and ammunition.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on 31st December, 1933, showing the state of the year's working and the financial position of the Colony to be as follows:—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1933		142,001
Revenue, 1933	655,529	
Expenditure, 1933	691,686	
Excess Expenditure over Revenue ...		36,157
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1933		105,844

The revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1929	740,646	871,086
1930	742,972	805,725
1931	884,153	884,008
1932	872,469	831,921
1933	655,529	691,686

Note.—The figures for 1932 and 1933 include receipts and payments of £175,000 and £72,500 respectively in respect of Colonial Development Fund Loan on account of the Marampa Iron Ore Concession.

The funded debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1933, was £2,141,273, against which the accumulations to the sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £749,719.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1933, amounted to £642,210, as follows:—

	£
Investments	552,744
Reserve Fund	29,928
Stores	25,163
Loans (City Council and Railway) ...	47,246
Sundry Debtors	13,947
Cash	9,685

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1933 were :—

	£
Customs	370,453
Port, Harbour and Light	10,015
Licences and Internal Revenue	20,781
Taxes	81,650

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932. There are no treaty obligations. An *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent (Preferential) and 20 per cent (General) is levied on all edibles, provisions, and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, excepting a few imports of this nature bearing a specific duty, the more important of which are sugar, ¾d. and 1d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1½d. per lb. (General); tea, 4d. per lb. (Preferential) and 5 per lb. (General); salt, table, 1s. 10d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 2s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General) ; lard, 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); flour, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. per cwt. (General); dried, salted, and pickled fish, 3s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General) ; beef and pork, pickled and salted, 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 2d. per 100 lb. (General); onions and potatoes, ¼d. per lb. (Preferential) and ½d. per lb. (General).

On wares and merchandise (including cotton piece-goods) is levied an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 30 per cent. (General), excluding a number of imports subject to specific duty. The main items subject thereto are: bags, 3s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); candles, 10s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); cement, 1s. 1d. per 400 lb. (gross) (Preferential) and 2s. per 400 lb. (gross) (General) ; corrugated iron sheets, £4 2s. 8d. a ton (Preferential) and £5 3s. 4d. a ton (General); paint, etc., 5s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (General).

On fuel oil is levied a duty of 3d. per gallon (Preferential) and 4d. per gallon (General) ; kerosene, 8d. per gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per gallon (General) ; lubricating oil, 8d. per gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per gallon (General) ; and motor spirit, 7d. per gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 2d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 6d. per lb. (General) ; manufactured tobacco, 4s. and 5s. per lb. (Preferential) and 6s. per lb. (General), cigarettes 1s. 6d. and 2s. per 100 (Preferential) and 2s. 6d. per 100 (General) or 6s. and 8s. per lb. over 4¼ oz. per 100. (Preferential) and 10s. per lb. over 4¼ oz. per 100 (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per gallon (General), and on wines from 3s. to 8s. a gallon; beer and ale, stout and porter are liable to 1s. 6d. per bulk gallon (Preferential) and 2s. per bulk gallon (General)

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, 30s. a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

A royalty of 5 per cent. is levied on gold and platinum exported.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wine, spirits, kerosene, tobacco, arms and ammunition, and gunpowder are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1933 amounted to £750.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from licences, as follows:—

Auctioneer, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.

Pawnbroker, bicycle, shopkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible, and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House tax in Freetown and the Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—No further reproduction was carried out at the expense of the Colony. No revision work has been carried out.

Cadastral Branch.—Sixteen Mining Surveys were executed during the year and realized £628 in revenue. Surveys in connexion with land acquisition and leases were also carried out and further progress made in detail survey in the Freetown area. The Drawing Office has been kept fully employed.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out successfully.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government Departments during the year amounted to £80. Sales to the public realized £132. The sum derived from sale and hire of Government stores amounted to £56.

Geological Survey.

Owing to shortage of European staff geological field work could be undertaken only during the first four months of the year. Early in May the officer in charge of the Geological Section was required to take charge of the Mines Section, and from that time onwards until the close of the year but few opportunities for geological field work presented themselves.

The Kangari-Sula schist belt was examined in some detail between Nerekoro and Sakasakala with a view to determining the structure of the area and obtaining some idea of the origin and geological history of the Tonkolili iron ore deposits. Owing to the unreliability of the published Survey Sheets for such detailed work, all geological information obtained in the field had to be tied in by means of compass-chain traverses. In the course of this work several promising alluvial deposits of gold were located.

During the year the gold lode outcrops at Baomahun, and the Kono diamond area were visited, and some geological work was done in each locality. The Baomahun area shows evidence of step faulting, and in consequence difficulty has been experienced in tracing the continuation of the lode near the surface where the ground is much fractured. During the examination of the diamond area it was found that a ruby red garnet was a conspicuous constituent of most of the diamondiferous mineral concentrates from stream gravels and that it was generally absent from the concentrates from those streams that did not contain diamond.

Specimens of this garnet were sent for examination to the Imperial Institute who reported that the mineral was apparently an isomorphous mixture of pyrops and almandine, with a little grossularite and andradite, with the pyrope molecule predominating. This conclusion was confirmed by analysis which showed a striking resemblance to analyses of two garnets in diamondiferous pipes in South West Africa given by Williams in his book "The Genesis of the Diamond" Volume 2. This suggests a pipe origin for the Sierra Leone diamonds.

Imperial Institute—Public Exhibition Galleries.

No new exhibits have been sent for exhibition during the year.

An exhibit of Gorli fruits, seed oil and ethyl esters prepared therefrom has been supplied by the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories and has been placed on exhibition.

Enlargements of a number of photographs illustrating agricultural operations have been made from negatives kindly loaned by Mr. R. R. Glanville, Agricultural Officer.

Photographs have been lent to the Press for propaganda and educational purposes, and specimens of products, postcards, and literature have been supplied to school museums.

Films of Sierra Leone have been displayed in the cinema on numerous occasions.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, MILLBANK, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1, AND FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, GEORGE STREET, FREETOWN.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.

	£	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all supplements: annual subscription, inland	1	5	0
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all supplements: annual subscription, overseas	1	10	0

	For current or previous year. s.	d.	For any prior year. s.	d.
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Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, etc.: Not exceeding 8 pages ...	0	4	0	8
9 to 16 ,, ...	0	6	1	0
17 to 32 ,, ...	0	9	1	6
33 to 48 ,, ...	1	3	2	6
49 to 64 ,, ...	1	6	3	0
65 to 96 ,, ...	2	0	4	0
Exceeding 96 ,, ...	2	6	5	0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

	Price.			Postage.	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928, each	0	12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932 each	0	12	6	1	2
Customs Trade Report, 1930—1933	0	5	0	0	5
Governor's Address on the Estimates for 1932	0	0	6	0	1
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year ...	0	1	6	0	2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent Numbers, each	0	0	6	0	2
The Handbook of Sierra Leone	0	10	6	0	8
Sierra Leone Studies (Abridged Edition) of Nos. 1, 2, and 3	0	1	0	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies, No. 6	0	0	6	0	2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7 to 19, each	0	1	0	0	2
Handbook of the Temne Language	0	5	0	0	3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	0	10	6	0	3
Handbook on the Tsetse Fly (Austen)	0	5	0	0	6
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by Sir H. C. Luke, K.C.M.G.	0	8	6	0	4
Report on the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone ...	0	1	6	0	2
Beriberi and the Freetown Prison	0	10	6	—	
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vols. I and II, by D. A. Bannerman, each	1	2	6	*1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville	0	2	6	0	1½
Census Report, 1931	0	5	0	0	6

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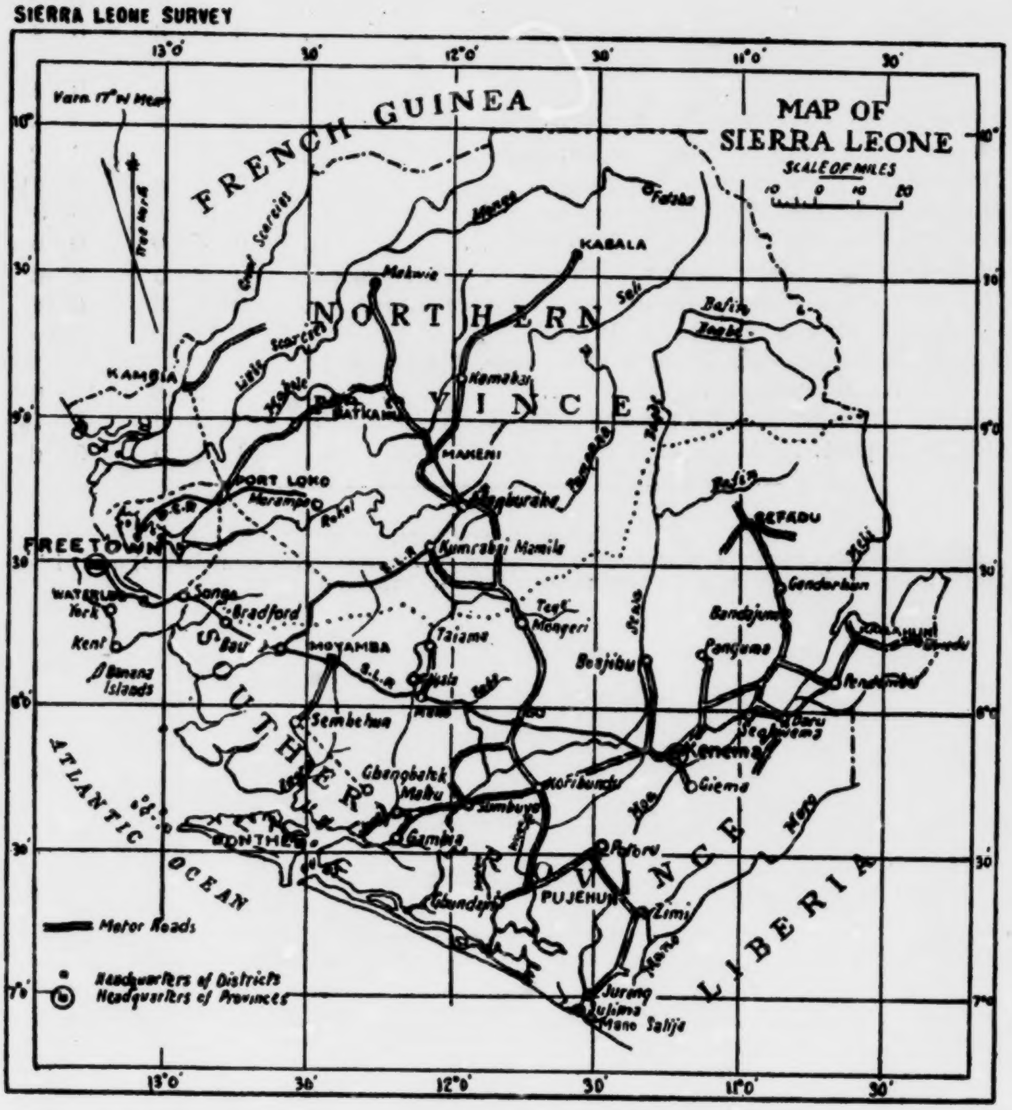
* Inland parcel post.

Note.—Remittances from overseas should be by bank draft (plus commission) or British postal order, made payable to the Government Printer, Freetown.


SIERRA LEONE SURVEY
MAP OF
SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
ATLANTIC OCEAN
LIBERIA
FREETOWN
KAMBIA
KABALA
Makuie
Kamabai
BATKANU
MAKENI
PORT LOKO
Marampa
Magburaka
Kumrabai Mamila
Mongeri
Taiama
MOYAMBA
Songo
Bradford
Bo
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Sembehun
Gbangbatok
Mattru
Sumbuya
Gambia
BONTHE
Gbundapi
PUJEHUN
Potoru
Zimi
Jurong
Sujima
Mano Salija
Kenema
Giema
Segbwema
Daru
Pendembu
Panguma
Bandajuma
Gendarbun
KAILAHUN
DEFADU
Bo-Jibu
Falaba
Motor Roads
Headquarters of Districts
Headquarters of Provinces
Varn. 17° W Mean
True North
13°0' 30' 12°0' 30' 11°0' 30'
10° 30' 9°0' 30' 8°0' 30' 7°0'

NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province have now been transferred from Magburaka to Freetown.

(25637) Wt. 1779—3265 550 10/34 P. St. G. 377/ 7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MALTA.
Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 11*d*.).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s*. (4*s*. 4*d*.).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

KENYA.
Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3*s*. (3*s*. 4*d*.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

SWAZILAND.
Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.).

MALAYA.
Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

SEYCHELLES.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

MAURITIUS.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

WEST INDIES.
Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

BRITISH HONDURAS.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

BRITISH GUIANA.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

PALESTINE.
Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 3*d*.).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
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KELANTAN.
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LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
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NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
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Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

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No. 1744

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

SIERRA LEONE, 1934

(For Reports for 1932 and 1933 see Nos. 1631 and 1678 respectively (Price 2s. 0d. each).)

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1936

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COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE LIST.
1st Edition, January, 1933. [Colonial No. 80.] **2s. (2s. 2d.).**
Supplement to 1st Edition, 1st January, 1934.
[Colonial No. 92.] **9d. (10d.).**

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Report of Committee on Leave and Passage Conditions for the Colonial Service. [Cmd. 4730.] **9d. (10d.).**

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
Fifth Annual Report covering the period 1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934. [Cmd. 4634.] **9d. (10d.).**

EMPIRE SURVEY.
Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1931.
[Colonial No. 70.] **£1 (£1 0s. 9d.).**

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and copies of Trade Agreements.
[Cmd. 4174.] **1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).**
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 4175.] **3s. (3s. 3d.).**

ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION.
Report of Imperial Committee, 1933. [Cmd. 4335.] **2s. (2s. 2d.).**

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Report of Royal Commission, with Appendices and Maps.
[Cmd. 4480.] **5s. 6d. (5s. 11d.).**
Papers relating to the Report. [Cmd. 4479.] **2d. (2½d.).**

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3234.] **6s. (6s. 5d.).**
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit to East Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3378.] **9d. (10d.).**
Report of Joint Select Committee. H.C. 156.
Vol. I—Report and Proceedings ... **1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).**
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Vol. III—Appendices ... ... **4s. 6d. (4s. 11d.).**

KENYA LAND COMMISSION.
Report, September, 1933. [Cmd. 4556.] **11s. (11s. 9d.).**
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 91.]
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Vol. II ... ... **£2 (£2 0s. 9d.).**
Vol. III ... ... **£2 (£2 0s. 9d.).**
Summary of Conclusions reached by His Majesty's Government.
[Cmd. 4580.] **2d. (2½d.).**

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the administration of Justice in Kenya, Uganda, and the Tanganyika Territory in Criminal Matters.
[Cmd. 4623.] **3s. (3s. 3d.).**
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 96.] **£1 (£1 0s. 6d.).**

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[*Continued on page 3 of cover.*]

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE, 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or "orchard bush" country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced towards the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly "Harmattan" wind usually blows at intervals during the December—February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed the Harmattan carries down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average minimum and maximum may be placed at 74° and 87° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level. July and August are as a rule the wettest months.

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the " Liberated Africans " who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is

appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is composed within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown.

(2) The Headquarters Judicial District.

(3) The Bonthe District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

This District which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioner of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

Bonthe District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Islands, York Island, and the four following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years it was, for political purposes, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out :—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;

(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and

(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each District is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and disinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any "palaver" which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax, and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 is 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census is 1,672,057, of which 796,391 are males and 875,666 are females, and consists of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics, and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate is 231, of which 173 are males and 58 are females. Of this total 142 are British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which are included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate is 772—577 males and 195 females. These include 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate number 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These include Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans number 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives ...	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population is as follows :—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives ...	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population				1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1934, 134 Syrians entered and 131 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,105 immigrants and 1,870 emigrants. All these entered and left the Colony by sea. The total number of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects was 142 and 135 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for births and deaths for the Colony for 1934 are as follows :—

(*a*) Births—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
1,170	1,103	2,273	22·5

(The birth-rate as shown is probably too low owing to many births outside Freetown having escaped registration).

(*b*) Deaths—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
1,353	1,031	2,384	23·7

As registration is not compulsory there are no reliable figures available for births and deaths in the Protectorate.

Infant Mortality—The following are the figures for infant mortality for the Colony for 1934 :—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000 live-births.*
300	230	530	233

(The infant mortality rate shown is probably too high owing to the absence of machinery for enforcing registration of births outside Freetown).

No figures for infant mortality are available for the Protectorate.

The last decennial census (1931) gave a total of 96,422 persons in the Colony as compared with 85,163 persons in 1921. The increase is due chiefly to immigration of natives from the Protectorate to Freetown, the rest of the colony showing an increase of about 41 persons during this period. The estimated population at mid 1934 was 59,523.

The population of the Protectorate was recorded as 1,672,057 compared with 1,456,148 persons in 1921, the difference in this case being an actual increase due to natural increment and not migratory or other causes.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1934 are :—

	Freetown.	*Village areas (Colony).*	*Headquarters District (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Total.*
Christian	142	16	14	10	182
Mohammedan	19	2	—	—	21
Totals ...	161	18	14	10	203

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate, of which 25 were recorded as having taken place in 1934. Mohammedan marriages and those by " Native Custom " are not registered.

IV—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

The appended list shows in tabular form the principal diseases treated at the Government institutions in the Colony and Protectorate in 1933 and 1934. Cases treated in the Mission hospitals and dispensaries are not included, and thus the table as given cannot be accepted as showing an accurate state of the morbidity of the general population. The uneducated African is still loath to place himself under European medical care, and, until there is a greater willingness on the part of the general populace to attend at the Government Institutions, no accurate data as to the state of health of the people can be compiled. When compared with 1933, the table of diseases treated in 1934, does not show much fluctuation of the incidence of disease. It will be noticed that chest affections and rheumatism show an increase over those of 1933, due no doubt to the exceptionally heavy rainfall. Malaria has remained fairly constant, but the figures given in no way indicate the amount of sickness arising from this cause. Avitaminosis cases again show an increase and are merely an indication that the economic depression has not as yet departed from Sierra Leone.

Venereal diseases are common, and fluctuating figures from year to year in no way reflect the true state of affairs.

While the main industry of the Colony still remains that of agriculture, the increasing amount of mining which is taking place in the Protectorate accounts, in some measure, for the greater incidence of accidental injuries while, from the nature of the work, it is only to be expected that skeletal and muscular affections, i.e. arthritis, chronic rheumatism, etc., must increase.

Disease.	*1933.*	*1934.*
Malaria	6,548	6,197
Yaws	7,665	7,362
Acute rheumatism	620	4
Chronic rheumatism	5,157	7,559
Hemiplegia	119	123
Conjunctivitis	807	841
Affections of the ear	852	924
Haemorrhoids	100	83
Lymphadenitis, bubo (non-specific)	596	621
Coryza	873	1,031
Acute bronchitis	5,981	6,104
Chronic bronchitis	3,109	3,994
Asthma	159	198
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,423	1,539
Gastritis	299	563
Dyspepsia	3,859	4,350
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,262	1,286
Ankylostomiasis	131	209
Hernia	713	946
Constipation	8,725	9,748
Acute-nephritis	94	47
Schistosomiasis	71	89
Epydidymitis	61	28
Orchitis	199	263
Hydrocele	233	325
Abscess	612	529
Scabies	1,210	961
Eczema	337	329
Osteitis	1,432	334
Arthritis	1,802	1,481
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments) ...	1,260	857
Fracture	303	274
Other external injuries	2,850	3,756
Asthenia	752	845
Syphilis	616	476
Gonorrhoea	2,250	2,234
Avitaminosis	337	455

Mortality.

It is only in Freetown that any accurate figures can be obtained as to the number of deaths and causes thereof. Elsewhere, although the machinery exists, it is totally dependent on the willingness of the people to come forward for treatment and in fatal cases to register the deaths. Every effort is made to register all deaths occurring in Freetown and, as the Medical Department can prove the burial of diseased persons, the figures for deaths occurring in Freetown can be taken as fairly accurate. Only the education and the greater advancement of the indigenous population of the Protectorate can enable us to obtain reliable figures for that part of the country, i.e. the Protectorate.

Principal causes of Deaths—1934.

Appended is a list showing the principal causes of deaths as registered. The deaths as registered in Freetown are the approximate statement of the mortality cause :—

Causes.	*Freetown (including Cline Town) 1,361.* *Number.*	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	310	22·7
Malaria	185	13·5
Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	49	3·6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	49	3·6
Nephritis	47	3·4
Senility	45	3·3
Prematurity	38	2·7
Infantile Convulsions	28	2·0
Rheumatism	24	1·7
Hemiplegia	15	1·1
Strangulated Hernia	14	1·0
Septicaemia	13	0·9

The number of deaths registered on medical certificate was 434, comprising 31·8 per cent. of the deaths registered.

Causes of deaths for the rest of the Colony are not included for 1934 because the figures are very unreliable owing to the absence of a Medical Officer or dispenser in the majority of the registration areas.

Provision for Treatment.

In so far as Freetown and the Colony of Sierra Leone are concerned no extra medical facilities have been added since the last report, and thus the medical facilities offered are still those of the Connaught Hospital in Freetown and the Government Hospital at Bonthe. There is, moreover, the Princess Christian Mission Hospital in Freetown which concerns itself mainly with ante-natal care and midwifery. The figures of attendance at the Connaught and Bonthe Hospitals are as follows :—

Connaught Hospital—	*1933.*	*1934.*
In-patients	2,268	2,464
Out-patients—New cases	17,313	17,155
Subsequent attendances	50,147	105,511
Operations	1,877	2,281
Bonthe Hospital—		
In-patients	292	425
Out-patients—New cases	5,988	5,080
Subsequent attendances	16,971	15,888

It will be noticed that the figures vary but little from those of 1933 except in those of subsequent attendances, which show an increase of nearly 100 per cent., indicating a greater appreciation on the part of the people of the benefit they receive from European medical treatment.

Protectorate.—Of the three permanent hospitals already existing in the Protectorate, i.e., Daru, Bo and Makeni, it is hoped to add yet another of a similar type at Moyamba. The building of this hospital will reduce the number of hospitals of native construction to three; the Medical Missions still maintain three hospitals in the Protectorate, one of which, i.e., Segbwema, is now of permanent construction. These Mission hospitals are subsidised by Government and employ qualified medical men and nurses. The table given below shows figures which vary but little from those of 1933; but here again in the Protectorate a general increase in subsequent attendances is to be recorded.

	1933.	*1934.*
Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Southern Province—		
In-patients	279	410
Out-patients—New cases	2,473	2,379
Subsequent attendances	18,826	16,046
Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province—		
In-patients	318	204
Out-patients—New cases	1,429	1,919
Subsequent attendances	4,860	8,620

Dispensaries.—These remain as in former years with this addition: that during the wet and stormy months a dispenser is posted at one of the larger outlying islands on the coast to service the group which otherwise could not be reached from the mainland.

Midwives.—Following on the passing of the new Midwives Ordinance, a new scheme of training of midwives has been put into operation by which it is hoped that within a few years women skilled in the conduct of labour will be available not only for Freetown and the Colony but also for the Protectorate towns. These midwives receive a thorough training in this branch of medicine at the Connaught Hospital and at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital in Freetown. The course takes the form of lectures, attendance on cases in hospitals and, under supervision, the management of labour in the district. Midwives receive their certificate only after this course and a subsequent examination. The scheme is somewhat analogous to that operating in more highly organised Colonies with but this addition: that a preliminary course of nursing is not enforced.

Maternity and Child welfare.—It is gratifying to record a general increase in this branch of medicine, and it will be seen from the subjoined table that a steady advance is being made. It is to be hoped that the midwife training scheme outlined above will result in greater and greater figures being returned annually in Freetown:

	Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1933.	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Ante-natal attendances	4,248	4,684	1,280	1,265
Labour cases admitted	281	331	56	76
Health visits	4,858	5,008	3,355	3,489
Infant-welfare clinic attendances	11,068	10,681	9,040	6,564

The cases shown in the above table are followed up by the Health Visitors (of which there are three), so that the advantages gained by careful ante-natal work and medical attendance on labour are not ruined by the lack of attention in the first early weeks of child life.

Sanitation.

Though the epidemic of smallpox which was mentioned in 1932 and 1933 still continues in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, it is gratifying to record that the cases occurring, and the facilities arising therefrom, show a downward curve of incidence. The disease had ceased to march more progressively over wide tracts of the country and was now limited to more or less sporadic and isolated foci where the dispensers and sanitary inspector vaccinators had so far failed to reach.

The following table shows the number of cases, deaths, and vaccinations performed in each district:—

Area.	*Number of cases discovered.*	*Number of deaths.*	*Number of vaccinations.*
Colony Districts—			
Freetown	11	—	5,385
Headquarters Judicial	11	1	2,545
Sherbro	198	36	3,498
Protectorate Districts—			
Northern Province—			
Port Loko	206	7	1,017
Kambia	5	2	2,013
Karene	3	—	428
Bombali	117	1	1,863
Koinadugu	48	12	1,385
Southern Province—			
Kailahun	238	43	9,633
Kono	187	1	—
Kenema	374	65	10,190
Bo	560	79	7,023
Moyamba	207	41	6,113
Pujehun	168	25	2,794
Total	2,333	313	53,827

It should be noted that many of these cases recorded are purely on the information of non-technical informants who, in many cases, must take chicken pox for the more grave form of disease, and it is a noteworthy fact that where skilled medical opinion has been available the subsequent incidence of measles in an area where smallpox had previously been prevalent has often been recorded. The passing in late 1934 of the new Labour Code has given to this Department that legal aid which is necessary for the control of those areas in which mining is being actively carried on, and it is hoped that in early 1935 it will be possible to ensure reasonable housing and standards of living for those people who, in these days of economic depression and low prices of staple products, are being more and more willed from agricultural to industrial undertakings.

Throughout practically the whole year the Chief Sanitary Superintendent was engaged on the inspection of the health areas of the Protectorate and, in many cases, he actively supervised the carrying out of those recommendations which arose from the inspectional visits carried out by the senior members of the Health Branch.

The establishment of the Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund has made available a fair amount of money to be spent in the sanitation of the Protectorate, and a programme of work has been drawn up whereby within a few years it is hoped that the main towns of the Protectorate will be adequately serviced by temporary but adequate sanitary structures, such as latrines, public dustbins, incinerators, water-supply, slaughterhouses, markets, etc. This work is actively commencing in 1935 and will be continued uninterruptedly from then onwards.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses on concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls and roofed with corrugated iron sheets of palm tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or native timber boarding and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas usually the unskilled labouring class rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables house owners and prospective house owners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately 20 new houses have been erected at a cost of about £8,000.

In addition, a building scheme has been introduced by a firm of timber merchants in Freetown. Under this scheme, prospective owners of the type of house property costing from £250 to £600 can erect buildings under the supervision of the firm both expeditiously and inexpensively, a payment being made by an initial small deposit followed by monthly instalments.

In connexion with this scheme, Government has laid out and has leased to the firm a small model residential area which enables intending house owners to obtain (by assignment from the firm) leases of building plots at a moderate ground rent and with an option to purchase the freehold within 20 years.

Two houses are now under construction on this area and several others are to be commenced.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—PRODUCTION

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities are platinum, gold, diamonds, iron, and probably chromite and ilmenite. With the exception of chromite and ilmenite these minerals were mined during the year. New deposits of platinum, gold and diamonds have been found recently.

Platinum.—The mining of platinum has not fulfilled early expectations. One company has been working and at least a profit is being made. Quite recently one or two individuals have shown a little interest and one of them has taken up a mining right.

Gold.—Before 1934 gold mining was entirely in the hands of three companies, but in this year Africans, Syrians and other individuals began to take an interest. This soon resulted in the formation of a number of local syndicates and a number of prospecting rights were applied for. Naturally applications for land followed and 146 were received for the year—easily a record.

At present only alluvial gold is being mined but there are real indications that reef mining may shortly be expected. One or two are now in an embryo state—the most promising being that at Baomahun. The Company in question considered it worth while to bring out a specially experienced engineer to examine this discovery.

The production by quarters was as follows :—

Quarters.	*Gold bullion Ozs. Troy.*	*Estimated Fine Ozs.*	*Estimated Value.* £
1st quarter	**4,973**	**4,653**	**31,475**
2nd ,, ...	**5,223**	**4,910**	**33,534**
3rd ,, ...	**6,728**	**6,320**	**43,922**
4th ,, ...	**5,690**	**5,322**	**43,285**
	22,614	**21,205**	**152,216**

This year's output of unrefined gold bullion and its estimated value compared favourably with the previous year's output of 15,604 ounces and its estimated value of £90,322.

The gold exists mainly in the Koinadugu Bombali and Bo Districts of the Protectorate.

Diamonds.—The Agreement between Government and the Consolidated African Selection Trust, Limited, has now been signed. Under this agreement the Company has the sole rights for the exploration and exploitation of diamonds in Sierra Leone while Government participates in the profits. All rents are commuted and a yearly sum is payable to the Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund. (All rents from mining in the Protectorate are paid into this fund which is used on behalf of the natives.)

The production of diamonds is increasing and there is every indication of considerable reserves. The quality is high and many gemstones of value have been discovered.

Iron Ore.—1934 was the first full year of production. Work has been carried on in connexion with the surveying of a railway from Marampa to Tonkolili but it will be some years before the latter deposit is exploited. A railway runs from there to the coast at Pepel, having been opened last year.

Ilmenite.—Interest was taken in the beach deposits at York in the latter part of the year but unfortunately the examination did not come to anything.

Generally, although no outstanding event has occurred, 1934 was a very good year. Gold is doing well and is expected to do better. A number of enquiries have been received and outside interests have been attracted. The position of the diamonds and iron ore is satisfactory. Labour is plentiful, and there is every indication of a steady increase of the importance of mining in this country.

Agricultural Produce.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—It is pleasing to be able to record that the rice crop has again been a good one and there is little likelihood of any real scarcity although the prolonged dry season and late rains may cause some slight shortage if the new crop is very late. This year there has been more activity on the part of merchants to export and there is every evidence that the 1934 crop (harvested from September to January) will show something like a record for clean rice exported during 1935. The figures for imports and exports for the last six years are :—

	Imports—white rice. *Tons.*	*Exports—native rice.* *Tons.*	*Excess (+) or deficit (−) of imports over exports.* *Tons.*
1929	3,029	13	+ 3,016
1930	2,618	175	+ 2,443
1931	457	177	+ 280
1932	301	559	− 258
1933	125	158	− 33
1934	81	221	− 140

Considerable progress is being made in the Scarcies area. One of the imported varieties of seed which has proved successful has been multiplied considerably, and distributed for production by farmers in the Scarcies area in 1935. Other introductions and selections are being studied; some of the varieties showed great promise in 1934 and further work with these is being carried on. It is hoped that very shortly the production of some of the pure strains of the better varieties will be on a sufficiently large scale to allow of milling separately in sufficient quantities to try the various markets along the West Coast.

Cassava.—The Agricultural Department has continued its efforts to eliminate " mosaic " disease, which causes great loss in the yield of cassava, and good progress has been made.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—68,655 tons of kernels were exported in 1934. Unfortunately the prices prevailing were even lower than in 1933 and the value only reached £460,780. In April the export duty was therefore reduced by £1. The exports from 1928 are given to show the effect of the reduction in price on the value of the kernel export.

	Exports.	
	Quantity. *Tons.*	*Value.* £
1928	67,105	1,150,649
1929	60,205	876,308
1930	56,641	664,591
1931	54,462	449,742
1932	77,162	687,477
1933	64,084	472,824
1934	68,655	460,780

Ginger.—An average amount of ginger was harvested and the price was better than in 1933. The price, however, was still very low as shown by the figures for the last six years.

	Quantity. *Tons.*	*Value.* £
1929	1,549	59,308
1930	1,972	57,228
1931	1,927	32,518
1932	1,382	22,877
1933	1,545	16,543
1934	1,659	23,254

Piassava.—It is pleasing to record that another export record was reached in 1934 with this fibre, and 3,659 tons were exported. The quality both of Sherbro and Sulima piassava was well maintained and the price maintained its level of 1933. For the first time piassava was exported from the "line" area. This was of a darker and stouter quality than the Sherbro or Sulima types but was well prepared—about 100 tons of this type of fibre was produced.

The export figures for the last six years show that this product has suffered less violent fluctuations in price than other Sierra Leone products.

	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1929	1,232	17,177
1930	2,417	36,582
1931	3,150	31,846
1932	2,877	23,290
1933	3,499	30,108
1934	3,659	30,390

Kola.—A further falling off in the export of kola is recorded for 1934. For many years kola had been, next to palm kernels, the chief agricultural export and the effect of the loss of so much of the kola trade will be severely felt. The figures for the last seven years are given to show, as in the case of kernels, the great falling off in the value of this export crop.

	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1928	3,299	281,997
1929	3,127	266,422
1930	2,271	186,197
1931	1,584	47,847
1932	2,085	41,373
1933	1,812	43,656
1934	1,460	18,304

Cocoa.—For a long time there have been small quantities of cocoa exported. Last year the amount exceeded 100 tons. Since 1929 the following quantities have been exported :—

	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1929	96	3,398
1930	80	2,548
1931	61	1,034
1932	81	1,295
1933	67	990
1934	138	1,755

Coffee.—A small amount of coffee is grown for local consumption and for export. So far only negligible quantities have been exported but the native cultivator is interested in this crop and shows signs of increasing production.

Fruits.—Investigations with regard to grapefruit, oranges, bananas and pineapples continue but it will take some time before there is any real export in those products.

Live Stock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the live stock of this country. Cattle-farming is carried out on a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country, and pigs to a small extent. There are a few horses, the majority of which also come from French territory. The value of the export in hides (mainly untanned) amounted in 1933 to £1,335 and in 1934 to £1,181.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1934 amounted to £805,227 as compared with £825,869 in 1933, being a decrease of £20,642.

The following tables show the value of imports by classes during the years 1933 and 1934. The first table distinguishes Commercial from Government imports and the second compares the imports by classes :—

	1933.	*1934.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Commercial imports ...	788,607	676,479	—	112,128
Government imports ...	28,501	99,855	71,354	—
Specie and currency notes ...	8,761	28,893	20,132	—
Total	825,869	805,227	91,486	112,128

Net decrease £20,642.

	1933.	*1934.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	210,506	189,315	—	21,191
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	38,920	60,200	21,280	—
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	541,611	503,764	—	37,847
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	26,005	23,055	—	2,950
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc.	8,827	28,893	20,066	—
Total	825,869	805,227	41,346	61,988

Net decrease £20,642.

Commercial imports in 1934 accounted for 84·01 per cent. of the total; Government imports amounted to 12·40 per cent. and specie and currency notes to 3·59 per cent.

Compared with 1933, there were decreases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I. "Food" fell by £6,738, "Drink" by £1,974 and "Tobacco" (mainly unmanufactured) by £12,479.

Commercial coal was mainly responsible for the increase in Class II, the value being £16,278 more than the 1933 imports.

But for an importation by Government of fuel oil valued at £72,021, the decrease under Class III would have been considerably more. The principal decreases under this class were in cotton piece-goods (£17,089), apparel (£11,018), metals, other kinds (£13,626), cotton yarn (£8,689), cottons unenumerated (£8,232), bags and sacks (£7,518), electrical and telegraphic apparatus (£7,373), motor spirit (£6,102), machinery, other kinds (£5,927), boots and shoes, other than leather (£5,062), artificial silk piece-goods (£4,294), hats, caps, bonnets and other head-gear (£3,866).

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piece-goods including velveteen for the years 1930 to 1934 :—

Year.	*Quantity.* *Sq. yds.*	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1930	5,132,718	156,556	28,947
1931	5,014,822	121,960	22,302
1932	11,169,367	262,959	48,651
1933	6,129,891	124,702	24,047
1934	5,638,488	107,740	26,524

The figures relating to other cotton goods were :—

Year.	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1930	66,823	12,013
1931	39,589	6,846
1932	67,187	12,368
1933	41,919	7,718
1934	25,194	7,257

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1933 and 1934 :—

Country.	*Value.* *1933.* £	*1934.* £	*Percentage.* *1933.*	*1934.*
United Kingdom	489,233	470,100	59·24	58·38
British West African Possessions	6,315	6,226	·76	·77
British Possessions (other)	80,563	145,132	9·76	18·03
France	16,121	11,696	1·95	1·45
Germany	33,520	22,146	4·06	2·75
Holland	7,252	4,455	·88	·55
United States of America	90,125	69,118	10·91	8·59
Japan	42,946	28,770	5·20	3·57
Foreign West African Possessions	9,876	974	1·20	·12
Other European Countries	42,045	37,506	5·09	4·66
Other Countries	7,873	9,104	·95	1·13
Total	825,869	805,227	100·00	100·00

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were cotton piece-goods, 4,201,737 square yards (£82,107) ; cotton, unenumerated, £15,384 ; coal, 33,104 tons (£43,915) ; metals—other kinds, except cutlery and tools, £18,619 ; salt, other than table salt, 3,201 tons (£15,160) ; cigarettes, 40,607 lb. (£12,443) ; motor-cars, 68 (£10,383) ; medicines and drugs, £8,709 ; electrical and telegraphic apparatus, £8,230 ; provisions, unenumerated, £7,989 ; beer and ale, stout and porter, 47,896 imperial gallons (£7,888) ; ships and boats, mechanically propelled, 6 (£7,867); artificial silk manufactures, £6,763; corrugated iron sheets, 454 tons (£6,712); machinery—mining and gold dredging, £6,549; wool (manufactured) all kinds, £6,086; cement, 2,550 tons (£6,012); stationery, other than paper, £5,639; apparel, £5,396; and whisky, 4,304 imperial gallons (£5,096).

British possessions (other than West African) provided oil fuel, 1,440,418 imperal gallons (£72,021); bags and sacks (empty) not including paper bags, 71,525 dozen (£21,121); flour, 28,748 cwt. (£18,570); cotton piece-goods, 301,890 square yards (£10,434); beer and ale, stout and porter, 20,768 imperial gallons (£6,286); tobacco, unmanufactured, 77,500 lb. (£2,638); lumber, 199,213 superficial feet (£2,399); butter, 306 cwt. £1,874); motor-cars 14 (£1,616); tea, 9,615 lb. (£1,269); and milk, 257 cwt. (£1,062).

The chief imports from France were wine (sparkling and still), 5,570 imperial gallons (£1,779); brandy, 1,145 imperial gallons (£1,735); and implements and tools—other than agricultural and artisans, £1,018.

Germany supplied metals—other kinds, except cutlery and tools, £3,065, salt, other than table salt, 479 tons (£1,652); wine (sparkling and still), 8,027 imperial gallons (£1,272); beer and ale, stout and porter, 7,650 imperial gallons (£1,235); lamps and lanterns, 1,301 dozen (£1,088); cutlery, £1,011; and medicines and drugs, £1,013.

Holland furnished wine (sparkling and still), 3,732 imperial gallons (£1,138).

Japan supplied cotton piece-goods, 940,604 square yards (£12,488); artificial silk manufactures, £5,735; apparel £3,579; and boots and shoes, other than leather, 34,431 pairs (£1,832).

Spain provided 9,073 gallons still wine, £2,129; and Sweden 26,057 gross boxes matches, £2,877.

The chief imports from the United States of America were tobacco, unmanufactured, 936,262 lb. (£31,055); oil, illuminating, 256,547 imperial gallons (£9,836); oil, motor spirit, 211,049 imperial gallons (£7,674); oil fuel, 100,445 imperial gallons (£2,703); oil, lubricating, 25,086 imperial gallons (£2,037); lumber, 497,810 superficial feet (£6,138); medicines and drugs, £1,182; and milk, 402 cwt. (£1,070).

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year 1934 amounted to £1,011,875 (domestic exports being £832,809 and non-domestic £178,066).

The following tables show the value of exports by classes during the years 1933 and 1934. The first table distinguishes Commercial from Government exports and the second compares the exports by classes :—

	1933.	*1934.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Commercial	772,236	848,030	75,794	—
Government	—	151	151	—
Specie and Currency Notes	11,707	163,694	151,987	—
Total	783,943	1,011,875	227,932	—
Class I.—				
Food, Drink and Tobacco	22,063	28,361	6,298	—
Class II.—				
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured	647,952	663,698	15,746	—
Class III.—				
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	17,938	15,357	—	2,581
Class IV.—				
Animals not for Food	273	282	9	—
Class V.—				
Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes...	95,717	304,177	208,460	—
Total	783,943	1,011,875	230,513	2,581

The following table is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1933 and 1934 :—

		1933.		*1934.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£
Benniseed	tons	14	125	208	1,856
Cocoa, raw	,,	67	990	138	1,755
Diamonds	value	—	73,266	—	144,861
Ginger	cwt.	30,902	16,544	33,172	23,254
Hides (cattle) tanned	lb.	7,379	348	9,577	481
Kola nuts	cwt.	36,236	43,656	29,206	18,304
Palm kernels	tons	64,083	472,824	68,655	360,780
Palm oil	,,	1,617	17,637	2,225	18,032
Peppers	lb.	155,190	1,486	75,569	1,015
Piassava	tons	3,500	30,108	3,659	30,390
Platinum	oz.	325	2,484	339	2,567
Rice	tons	3,170	1,671	4,431	1,204
Gold	oz.	14,975	84,010	22,733	140,483
Gum copal	tons	54	2,675	—	—
Iron ore	value	—	2,400	—	84,355

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1933 and 1934 :—

Country.	*Value.*		*Percentage.*	
	1933.	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£		
United Kingdom	434,700	679,163	54·79	67·12
British West African Possessions	52,515	31,490	6·80	3·11
British Possessions (other) ...	1,986	3,489	·26	·35
France	1,627	1,963	·21	·19
Germany	159,229	148,010	20·62	14·63
Holland	85,143	84,402	11·03	8·34
United States of America ...	18,657	20,409	2·42	2·02
Japan	—	750	—	·07
Foreign West African Possessions	5,034	9,244	·65	·91
Other European Countries ...	20,096	30,205	2·60	2·99
Other Countries	4,956	2,750	·62	·27
Total	783,943	1,011,875	100·00	100·00

Palm kernels.—68,655 tons or 4,572 tons in excess of 1933, were shipped. A considerable decrease, £112,044, was, however, recorded in the value. As this value is inclusive of export duty some allowance must be made for the reduction in this duty from 30s. to 10s. a ton in April, 1934, at a time when the Home market price fell as low as £6 13s. 2d. The Home market price averaged throughout the year £7 3s. 2d. or £1 12s. 5d. less than in 1933.

Germany purchased 26,129 tons, an increase on the figure of 1933 of 5,048 tons. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 25,624 tons, or a decrease of 2,578 tons. Exports to Holland rose from 11,935 to 14,758 tons.

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years :—

Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	Tons.	£
1930	56,641	664,591
1931	54,462	449,742
1932	77,162	687,477
1933	64,083	472,824
1934	68,655	360,780

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil in 1934 amounted to 2,225 tons, valued at £18,032, an increase in quantity of 608 tons and in value of £395. The Home market price averaged throughout the year £12 19s. 3d. as compared with £14 19s. in 1933. The bulk of this oil (1,587 tons) went to the United Kingdom. Nigeria and the Gambia purchased 321 and 222 tons, respectively, Germany took 63 and Holland 30 tons. Exports of palm oil by no means represent the production, as this article is one of the principal foods of the inhabitants of the Colony and Protectorate.

Kola Nuts.—A decrease of 7,030 cwt., valued at £25,352, was recorded in kola nuts. Shipments to Nigeria fell from 15,552 to 914 cwt. Besides the loss of the Senegal market, to which reference has been made in former reports, the cultivation of the kola tree in Nigeria has now resulted in the loss of that market as well. In 1927, 39,559 cwt. were exported to Nigeria; so it can readily be seen what serious blow this decrease in the exports to Nigeria is to the kola trade of this Colony. Shipments to the Gambia increased by 3,035 cwt. and to French and Portuguese Guinea by 2,272 and 2,138 cwt., respectively. The local market price averaged only 17s. 5d. per measure (176 lb.) throughout the year as compared with £1 17s. 1d. in 1933.

Ginger.—A slight increase was recorded in the quantity and value of ginger exported. Market prices averaged throughout the year 15s. 9d. a cwt. as compared with 19s. in 1933. The United Kingdom took 16,476 cwt. and the United States of America 13,220. Shipments to Canada increased from 388 to 1,668 cwt.

Piassava.—Shipments of piassava again recorded an increase—3,659 tons valued at £30,390 having been exported as compared with 3,500 tons, in itself a record, of a value of £30,108 in 1933. The Home market price ranged from £23 a ton in January to £24 5s. in December and averaged throughout the year £22 12s. 1d. or 6s. less than that in the previous year.

The United Kingdom took more than half (1,983 tons) of the total shipment, an increase of 444 tons as compared with 1933. Belgium, Germany and the United States of America purchased 480, 442 and 421 tons, respectively. Exports to South Africa increased by 3 tons to 86 tons.

Diamonds.—The value of diamonds exported increased from £73,266 to £144,861.

Gold.—Exports of gold showed a gratifying increase over the previous year, 22,733 oz. (troy) valued at £140,483 having been exported as compared with 14,975 oz. (troy) valued at £84,010.

Platinum.—Exports increased from 325 oz. (troy) valued at £2,484 to 339 oz. (troy) of a value of £2,567.

Exports of diamonds, gold and platinum went to the United Kingdom.

Iron Ore.—The value of ore shipped during the year was £84,355.

State of Trade.

The following comparative table shows the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years :—

Year.	*Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).*	*Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).*	*Net Imports.*	*Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.*	*Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.*	*Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1930	1,335,731	141,067	1,194,664	1,047,339	147,325	—	428,369	4,621,121
1931	991,120	75,376	915,744	616,337	299,407	—	340,056	3,927,457
1932	1,219,588	20,749	1,198,839	878,424	320,415	—	452,880	3,286,299
1933	817,108	18,306	798,802	753,930	44,872	—	371,686	3,509,799
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310

As the result of the extremely low price offered throughout the year in European markets for all raw products, a considerable decline in the value of commercial imports was not unexpected.

The increase in the value of domestic exports (£78,875) was entirely due to the development of the mineral resources of the country, but for which fact a very heavy decrease would have been recorded in the value.

A considerable improvement was recorded in shipping, 128 vessels more than in 1933 having entered the various ports of the Colony.

Preferential duties, the full effect of which has not as yet been realized, has materially assisted trade with the United Kingdom. The preference accorded to Empire products, such as tobacco, oil and wines, should ultimately result in an increased importation of these articles from the Dominions and Colonies.

The importation from Japan of cotton and artificial silk piece-goods was restricted as from the 16th June, 1934, quota regulations being introduced as from that date.

By granting a considerable measure of preference to the Empire article and introducing quota regulations this Colony has done all in its power to foster and develop Empire trade.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (Public Works).—In Freetown during 1934, Public Works artisans were paid from 3s. to 5s. 9d. per day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. per day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 6d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. for journeymen.

Labourers (Public Works).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was 1s. per day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were slightly higher rates, the maximum being 1s. 9d.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 6d. to 9d. while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 7d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

Railway workers.—The following table gives the minimum, maximum, and average rates of pay of railway workers :—

Grade.	*Minimum.*		*Maximum.*		*Average rate per diem paid in 1934.*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Traffic :—						
Station porters	0	6	1	3	1	0
Pointsmen	1	3	2	0	1	7
Shunter pointsmen	1	6	3	0	2	6
Watchmen	0	6	2	0	0	10
Yard foremen	2	6	6	6	4	0
Telegraph messengers	—		—		0	11
Caretakers	0	6	1	3	0	10
Train porters	0	9	1	6	1	4
Trolley Boys	1	0	1	6	1	4
Lampmen	0	9	2	0	1	3
Engineering :—						
Artisans	2	6	10	0	3	6
Headmen	1	9	2	9	1	11
Telegraph Linesmen	1	3	5	6	2	1
Telegraph labourers	1	0	1	9	1	2
Labourers (skilled)	1	3	1	9	1	5
Labourers (unskilled)	0	6	1	3	0	10
Locomotive and carriage :—						
Artisans	2	6	10	0	4	3
Gatemen	1	6	4	0	2	9
Storemen	2	9	6	6	2	10½
Shops clerks	3	0	5	0	3	3
Tools clerks	1	3	6	6	2	6
Timekeepers	2	9	6	6	3	0
Brakesmen	0	9	1	6	0	10½
Carriage cleaners	0	9	4	0	1	2½
Coalmen	0	9	3	0	1	2
Strikers	1	3	2	6	1	7
Drivers (pumping and stationary engines)	1	3	4	0	2	4½
Drivers (crane)	1	6	5	0	3	0
Engine cleaners	0	9	4	0	1	2
Greasers	1	3	4	0	1	10
Lighters-up	1	3	3	0	1	0
Pumpmen	0	9	1	6	0	11
Passed firemen	3	0	5	3	3	6
Firemen	1	9	2	6	2	1
Crane firemen	1	0	1	6	1	4
Washers-out	1	3	3	0	2	3
Labourers (skilled)	1	3	1	9	1	7
Labourers (unskilled)	0	6	1	3	1	1
Furnacemen	1	9	3	0	1	10½
Painters	1	6	6	0	2	7
Apprentices	1	0	2	6	1	10
Holders up	1	3	2	6	1	11

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the Colony's staple food, was obtainable at from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a bushel or 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$d. to 1s. 3d. per kettle.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

An Education Ordinance passed in 1929 provides a complete code for all Colony and Protectorate Schools. Separate Schedules for Rules which apply to the Colony and Protectorate respectively, differ in the important means of providing Government grants-in-aid.

In the Colony the schools are conducted by Boards of Managers as a result of the amalgamation of the mission primary schools. The Managers are responsible for the upkeep of the school buildings, but the Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment in the primary schools. All school fees are paid into Government revenue.

The secondary schools on the Assisted List in the Colony receive capitation and equipment grants-in-aid. Grants are also paid to qualified teachers.

In the Protectorate, the assisted schools receive capitation, building, and equipment grants, but the salaries of the teachers are paid by the mission authorities. Additional grants to qualified teachers in the Protectorate are paid by Government.

Colony Schools.—In the Colony there are at present 50 assisted primary schools with 7,112 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 5,363.

The assisted secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows :—

> Boys—Six schools with 98 primary, 217 preparatory, and 360 secondary pupils.
>
> Girls—Five schools with 423 primary, 171 preparatory, and 128 secondary pupils.

Included in the boys' secondary schools is the Prince of Wales School, established and maintained entirely by Government. This school makes special provision for the teaching of science and for technical instruction, and is liberally equipped with laboratories and workshops.

There are also four assisted schools in the Colony providing technical training—The Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), The Diocesan Technical School (carpentry, surveying, and building construction), the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry and cabinet making) and the American Methodist Episcopal Girls' Industrial School (domestic science and arts).

With regard to the education of girls, domestic science in all its branches forms a most important part of their curriculum. A special examination is held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas are awarded to successful students. Provision is also made at the Roman Catholic Convent School for instruction in this subject to girls who have already left school and are contemplating marriage. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

Scholarships tenable at the Women Teachers' Training College at Wilberforce are awarded to girls from the secondary schools. The College is residential and is financed and largely controlled by Government.

Higher education for boys is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University. Arts, theological and science courses are provided.

A separate course for the training of men teachers is also provided at the Fourah Bay College. Residential scholarships are awarded annually by Government, which also finances the scheme for teacher training.

Protectorate Schools.—In the Protectorate nine missionary authorities conduct 85 assisted schools with 4,388 boys and 1,213 girls on the rolls. In addition, these bodies conduct 80 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 1,975 pupils.

Government controls eight boys' schools in the Protectorate with 395 pupils. These, with an exception of the Bo School and the Koyeima School, are rural schools of junior grades.

Bo School.—The Bo School was established by Government in 1906 for the education of the sons and nominees of chiefs. It aims at providing the boys with a liberal education in preparation for the important work they will probably be called upon to undertake in connexion with their chiefdoms. Hygiene and sanitation, town-planning, building, and hand and eye training are important parts of the curriculum.

Koyeima School.—The Central School at Koyeima is intended to provide education for Protectorate youths beyond that given in the primary schools. The school provides an adequate training in such technical subjects as woodwork, building, tailoring, wood-carving, surveying, town-planning, and agriculture, and will also, it is hoped, in time become the centre for the training of Protectorate teachers.

Music, etc.—The natives of Sierra Leone have a gift for music—both vocal and instrumental. Most of the large churches and chapels have pipe organs which are played by African organists.

Many Africans, too, show skill on the pianoforte and other instruments. The band of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force, is on outstanding example of how far musical art can be developed.

A special music master has been engaged to teach singing on correct lines in the schools, and very good results have been achieved. Naturally, the children excel in rendering negro spirituals, but they have made great progress in music of a more classical nature. An annual singing competition has been inaugurated among the schools and this has been highly appreciated and the competition is very keen.

Dramatic art is being encouraged to some extent and the students of the secondary school are proving apt pupils.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick, and the burial of deceased destitute persons, remained the same during 1934 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about 5 miles from Freetown.

X.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads; there is, however, a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road from Hill Station, 3 miles in length, affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 50 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 30 miles are motorable—the principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface-water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—The construction in 1934, of a length of 8¼ miles of road from Matam to Mabonto, to give access to the Northern Province Gold Areas, increased the total mileage of maintained roads in the Protectorate to 793¼. The roads are surfaced with laterite and are for the greater part 16 feet wide.

The majority of the bridges are built with concrete abutments and piers, and steel joists carrying a timber deck, but there still remains a number of timber beam and trestle bridges which are being reconstructed to a standard type, with a 9 feet wide deck, as their condition requires and funds permit. In addition to the above Government maintained roads there are Chiefs roads constructed and maintained by tribal authorities concerned which are not usually open to heavy motor vehicles and are sometimes not available for motor traffic in the wet season.

In cases where the width of rivers has rendered the construction of bridges financially impracticable, ferries are used. There are fifteen such ferries in the Protectorate, the pontoons being constructed of timber with one exception which has a steel pontoon. The pontoons are connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled traveller moving on a steel cable-way which is slung between towers on the bank. The pontoon is impelled across the river partly by the action of the current and partly by the boat crew hauling on a light steel hand-line also slung between the banks.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1934 was 311 miles and the gauge 2 feet 6 inches.

Capital expenditure of the railway to 31st December, 1934, was £1,428,114.

The total revenue of the railway was £151,214 which shows an increase of £5,620 over the figure for the previous year. The depression in trade which manifested itself in 1930 continued throughout the year under review. The revenue includes £1,259 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £190,519 which shows a reduction of £15,203 as compared with 1933. This total includes £82,941 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Working expenditure amounted to £131,138 and gross receipts to £151,124.

Passenger journeys in the year were 377,133 an increase of 3,962 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 59,938 tons against 54,866 in 1933.

	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 3·44	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88	8 11·03
Working expenses per train mile	5 1·09*	9 2·55	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98	7 8·82
Passengers carried ...	438,388	604,737	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	78,385	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024	54,866	59,938

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles, and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of 5 miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, on the western seaboard of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1933 consisted of six passenger vehicles and two goods lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 226,635 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,237.

The staff employed was :—

European	1
Africans	20
Total	21

Postal Business.

There was a further slight falling off in postal business during 1934 due to the continuance throughout the year of the depression in trade. Postal business was conducted from 12 post offices and 59 postal agencies; money-order business from 22 and postal-order business from 58 offices.

The total revenue collected was £18,652 as against a sum of £22,248 in the previous year. Of this amount £12,212 was derived from direct postal revenue, £4,553 from Customs duty on parcels, and £1,887 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds dealt with during the year was 1,803,800 as compared with 1,873,200 in 1933. Included therein are 70,800 registered articles. Money-order transactions decreased from 3,590 (value £24,099) in 1933 to 3,541 (value £21,443) in 1934.

The total number and value of postal-orders issued during the year (43,948 and £25,121) and the number and value of postal-orders paid (37,459 and £22,294) as compared with the figures for the previous year which were—orders issued 43,598 valued £28,027; orders paid 36,762 value £23,579.

The parcel post transactions showed a falling off, 28,334 parcels being handled as against 29,554 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (with Great Britain only) 6,164 parcels were received (value £10,500) as compared with 6,488 (value £10,650) in 1933.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo; this system is connected up by branches with most of the direct headquarters in the Protectorate. The total mileage is 1,098¼ miles, plus the railway traffic control line of 455 miles.

Telephones.

The only service is that in Freetown and district, maintained by the Railway Department. The total mileage is 392¾ miles.

Cables and Wireless.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown ; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short-wave lengths.

Shipping.

There was an increase of 120 in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonage 381,261. Of a total of 2,135,300 tons entered, 58·86 per cent. was British, 10·48 German, 6·78 Italian, 6·75 French and 6·44 American.

The following table gives details of natonality and tonnage entered during the year :—

Steam and Motor Vessels entered.

Nationality.	*Number.*	*Tonnage.*	*Percentage proportion to total tonnage.*
American	**43**	**137,485**	**6·44**
Belgian	**5**	**14,639**	**·69**
British	**400**	**1,256,797**	**58·86**
Danish	**8**	**12,077**	**·57**
Dutch	**30**	**72,846**	**3·41**
Finnish	**11**	**14,692**	**·69**
French	**32**	**144,240**	**6·75**
German	**85**	**223,764**	**10·48**
Grecian	**3**	**7,987**	**·37**
Italian	**46**	**144,713**	**6·78**
Spanish	**30**	**72,272**	**3·38**
Swedish	**20**	**33,788**	**1·58**
Totals	**713**	**2,135,300**	**100·00**

Of the above vessels, 19 entered at Sherbro and 28 at Sulima.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports :—

Line.	*From*	*Frequency of calls.*
American West African Line.	New York	2 monthly (average) with passengers and general cargo.
Compania Transmediterranea.	Barcelona	Passengers monthly.
Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd.	United Kingdom coastal ports.	Passengers fortnightly. Cargo frequently.
Do. do.	Continental ports ...	Cargo every 3 weeks.
Do. do.	Canada	Monthly.
Fabre-Fraissinet ...	Marseilles	"
Holland West African Lijn.	Hamburg, Amsterdam, Le Havre and coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Passengers and cargo—monthly each.
Navigazione Libera Trestina (Italian).	Genoa and coast ports	Cargo—monthly.
Woermann Linie ...	Hamburg, Southampton and continental ports, Hamburg and continental ports.	Passenger—fortnightly. Cargo—fortnightly.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Liverpool and coast ports.	Cargo—twice monthly.
Société Navale de l'Ouest and Chargeurs Réunis.	Marseilles and coast ports.	Cargo—monthly.
L'Equatoriale (Italian)	Genoa and coast ports	Cargo—monthly.
Compania Navierra Amaya (Spanish).	Continental and African ports.	One in 2 months.

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes, and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about 4 tons. During recent years motor launches have come into use and this form of water transport appears to be growing increasingly popular with the natives.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony—Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima, and Mano Salija.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with nineteen agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1934, was £68,084.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The cooperative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are :—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The scheme for the canalization of streams, which had been held in abeyance since the early part of 1932, was recommenced on an approved eight years programme allowing for a total expenditure of £32,912.

The new programme included for the completion of the canalization of Sanders Brook, the canalization of Samba Water and the street drainage of that area.

The following work was completed during 1934 as the first section of the new programme :—

Sanders Brook Canal.—This was extended from near Dundas Street where work concluded in 1932 to a point north-east of the Public Works Department Yard—a length of approximately 830 feet. Three reinforced concrete road bridges were constructed, at Point Street, Dundas Street and Pademba Road. The canal was built in English pressed brown engineering bricks to a width of 7 feet 6 inches and an average depth of approximately 2 feet 6 inches according to gradient, the depth being exclusive of a small invert designed to deal with the dry season flow.

This work was let out to contract, cement, bricks and reinforcing steel being supplied by this Department. The bridges at Point and Dundas Streets were constructed departmentally owing to various difficulties with the contractor.

Street Drainage.—The surface-water drainage to Dundas Street was completed, approximately 1,400 feet of concrete channels being laid. A short section of the street from Pademba Road was coated with British standard specification road tar No. 2.

Three hundred and forty-nine feet of concrete channels were laid in Point Street, 104 feet in Westmoreland Street and a short length of approximately 85 feet in Pademba Road.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power. In certain cases special tariffs have been approved for other than private consumers, each having a favourable decreasing rate of charge in a manner similar to that for users of domestic appliances. Such special tariffs are based upon the various different average consumptions of current of each consumer.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

(Note.—The last mentioned were added during the year.)

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court (Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap.* 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests ", or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows:—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court ".

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " The District Court ".

A Provisional Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to the supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as " Joint Judges " to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision to all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, in 1934.

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons. discharged.*	*Committed for trial in the Supreme Court.*
Assault and Battery ...	65	175	98	74	1
Harbour offences ...	61	85	81	4	—
Stowaways	9	14	10	4	—
Customs offence ...	57	23	23	—	—
Housebreaking	24	13	—	2	11
Burglary...	14	1	—	—	1
Larceny	378	477	376	98	3
Larceny from Ship ...	4	3	2	1	—
Public Health offence ...	91	629	548	81	—
Shop breaking	8	2	1	—	1
Larceny from a house ...	50	79	58	21	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	—	3	3	—	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence	10	14	13	1	—
Disorderly conduct ...	67	122	88	34	—
Fighting	34	42	35	7	—
Drunk	23	22	20	2	—
Wounding	11	16	3	5	8
TOTALS	906	1,718	1,359	334	25

Juvenile Offenders.

Larceny	21	22	22	—	—
Assault and Battery ...	2	5	3	2	—
Throwing Stones ...	1	3	3	—	—
Committing Nuisance ...	—	8	8	—	—
TOTALS	24	38	36	2	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1934.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number of persons imprisoned.*	*Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.*	*Number of persons condemned.*	*Number of persons discharged.*
Port Loko	19	5	3	1	10
Makeni	7	3	—	1	3
Kambie	3	—	—	—	3
Karene	—	—	—	—	—
Bo	3	3	—	—	—
Kailahun...	3	1	1	1	—
Kenema	2	1	—	—	1
Moyamba	5	4	1	—	—
Pujehun	—	—	—	—	—
Bonthe	—	—	—	—	—
Koinadugu	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	43	18	5	3	17

Police.

There has been no change in the strength and oraganization of the Police Force of the Colony.

Prisons.

There are now ten prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows :—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons: Kambia. Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni.

Southern Province, local prisons: Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Masanki.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the years 1933 and 1934 was as follows :—

	1933.	*1934.*
Males	862	831
Females	11	16
Juvenile offenders	21	25

The total daily average number in custody was :—

1933.	*1934.*
264	259

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the years 1933 and 1934 was :—

	1933.	*1934.*
Males	1,098	1,094
Females	1	4

The daily average number in custody was 134, as against 176 in 1933.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was two, compared with seven in 1933.

Industrial.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and planting fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of rice-milling, tailoring, tarpauling and mattress making, bread-making and carpentry.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1934 were :—

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1934;
The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance, 1934;
The Undesirable Advertisements Ordinance, 1934;
The Protectorate (Amendment) Ordinance, 1934;
The Protectorate Vagrancy Ordinance, 1934;
The Pawnbrokers Ordinance, 1934;
The Employers and Employed Ordinance, 1934.

Of these Ordinances, the *Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1934, had for its main purpose the imposition of specific duties on many articles imported into Sierra Leone which had previously been subjected to *ad valorem* duties. The export duty on palm kernels was reduced from £1 10s. per ton to 10s.

The *Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance*, 1934, establishes a quota system applicable to the importation of textiles from countries outside the British Empire. The importation of all such textiles is prohibited except under licence and provision is made for the issue and regulation of such licences.

The *Undesirable Advertisements Ordinance*, 1934, is based on the Imperial Venereal Disease Act, 1913, and prohibits public advertisements of any treatment or remedies for venereal disease and other undesirable advertisements, except such as may be made by the authority or with the sanction of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

By the *Protectorate (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1934, provision is made for the election of Chiefs by tribal authorities and power is reserved to the Governor to appoint a Chief in case a tribal authority neglects or refuses to proceed to an election. The previous provisions relating to the deposition of chiefs are altered so as to permit deposition to take place after the holding of one formal enquiry instead of two.

The *Protectorate Vagrancy Ordinance*, 1934, provides for the repatriation of vagrant and unemployed natives. The opening of the mines in different chiefdoms of the Protectorate has attracted natives from all parts of the country, who are not all able or willing to obtain regular work and whose presence in a foreign chiefdom is not conducive to good order.

The *Pawnbrokers Ordinance*, 1934, is based on the Nigerian Ordinance and the Imperial Act of 1872, and regulates the whole business of pawnbroking and in particular prescribes maximum rates of interest. The business of money-lending in the Colony has been regulated by Ordinance since 1924. In fact much of the local money-lending is secured by pawn, but no Ordinance has controlled pawnbroking or limited the rates of interest. The growth of gold-mining has made necessary a closer control of any trade in gold as many articles pawned are of that metal.

The *Employers and Employed Ordinance*, 1934, is designed to regulate the relations between employers and employed and to safeguard the health of the latter. It deals with the formation and interpretation of all contracts of service and enables in certain cases minimum rates of wage to be fixed by the Governor.

The recruitment of native labour for foreign service is regulated and controlled, as are also the employment of women, adolescents and children and apprenticeship contracts. Provision is made for the case of the death, insolvency and change of residence of the employer and for any breaches of contract or other disputes which may occur between employers and employed. There is an extensive rule making power and rules are enacted in a schedule to the Ordinance. These deal with various matters subsidiary to the relations between employers and employed such as the payment of wages and the deductions which may lawfully be made therefrom, the hours of work, the return of labourers to the place of engagement upon the expiration of the contract of service and the housing and sanitary arrangements to be made for the labourers. Provision is made in the Ordinance for the establishment of Labour Health Areas and the Rules detail the housing, medical and sanitary arrangements required in such areas.

The following are the more important subordinate legislative instruments which came into force during the year :—

The Manufactured Gold (Export Prohibition) Order in Council, 1934, requires that any person who desires to export from Sierra Leone any article manufactured in West Africa and composed wholly or in part of gold must first obtain a permit for that purpose.

The Fruit Export Rules, 1934, which provided for the inspection of fruit intended for export and prohibited the export of fruit which is not of the prescribed standard or which is improperly packed.

The Animals Diseases (Control of Dogs) (No. 2) Rules, 1934, which were occasioned by an outbreak of rabies, prescribed that no dog should be at large other than in private premises except it was safely muzzled and if not so muzzled might be seized and destroyed.

The Native Courts Rules, 1934, which required the monthly return to a District Commissioner of all criminal and civil cases tried in the courts of certain Paramount Chiefs.

The Circuit Court Rules, 1934, which prescribe the practice and procedure to be observed in all civil proceedings in the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The forms to be used and the scale of costs which is to apply are added in appendices to the Rules.

The Midwives Rules, 1934, which provide for the examination of persons seeking to qualify as midwives and for the investigation of charges of professional misconduct against qualified midwives. The Rules also detail the subject in which an intending midwife should be instructed and further provide the direction and procedure to be observed by midwives in the exercise of their profession.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on the 31st December, 1934, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows :—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1934 ...		105,844
Expenditure, 1934	603,208	
Revenue, 1934	598.839	
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue		4,369
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1934		101,475

The Revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were :—

	Revenue. £	*Expenditure.* £
1930	742,972	805,725
1931	884,153	884,008
1932	872,469	831,921
1933	655,529	691,686
1934	598,839	603,208

Note.—The figures for 1932 and 1933 respectively include receipts and payments of £175,000 and £73,500 on account of a loan from the Colonial Development Fund to the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited. The figure of Revenue for 1934 includes the sum of £29,928 transferred from the Reserve Fund.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1934, was £1,718,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £378,726.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1934, amounted to £262,903 made up as follows :—

	£
Investments	166,468
Stores	15,728
Loans	26,574
Advances	34,178
Cash	19,955

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1934 were :—

	£
Customs	313,035
Port, Harbour and Light	12,865
Licences and Internal Revenue	21,422
Taxes	105,982

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. (Preferential) and 30 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an *ad valorem* duty is levied of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 40 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are : cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d.

per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey ¾d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 1½d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, 1¼d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2½d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); fish—dried, salted, smoked or pickled, not in tins, jars or bottles, 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 5s. per 100 lb. (General); flour, 1s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 2s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 0s. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, 4s. per 36 lb. (Preferential) and 8s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 4½d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 5½d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil, 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 1s. per imperial gallon (General); onions and potatoes, ¼d. per lb. (Preferential) and ½ per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. 9d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk piece goods, 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 2d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 6d. per lb. (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 4s. per lb. (Preferential) to 6s. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, 10s. a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 1s. 3d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wine, spirits, kerosene, tobacco, arms and ammunition and gunpowder are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1931 amounted to £682.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows:—

> Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.
>
> Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House Tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £2.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—No funds were voted either for revision or further reproduction of the sheets of the 1/62,500 survey of the Protectorate which was commenced in 1925 and completed in 1930, and of which only 41 per cent. have been published. The mining areas are, however, nearly covered by the published sheets. Numerous sunprint copies were supplied to mining companies of the unpublished sheets.

Cadastral Branch.—Forty mining surveys were executed during the year and realized £998 in revenue. One hundred and forty-six mining applications were received, the plans examined and reports rendered. The sheets of the town survey of Bo comprising seven sheets on 1/1,250 scale together with several village surveys were traced and issued in sunprint form. The drawing office made 196 plans and 360 sunprints.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collecton of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out successfully.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government Departments during the year amounted to £64. Sales to the public realized £64. The sum derived from sale and hire of Government stores amounted to £30.

Geological Survey.—Owing to shortage of European staff no geological field work could be undertaken during 1934.

APPENDIX

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1. and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.	£	s.	d.
***Royal Gazette*, inclusive of all Supplements; Annual Subscription, inland**	1	5	0
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8 pages	4	8
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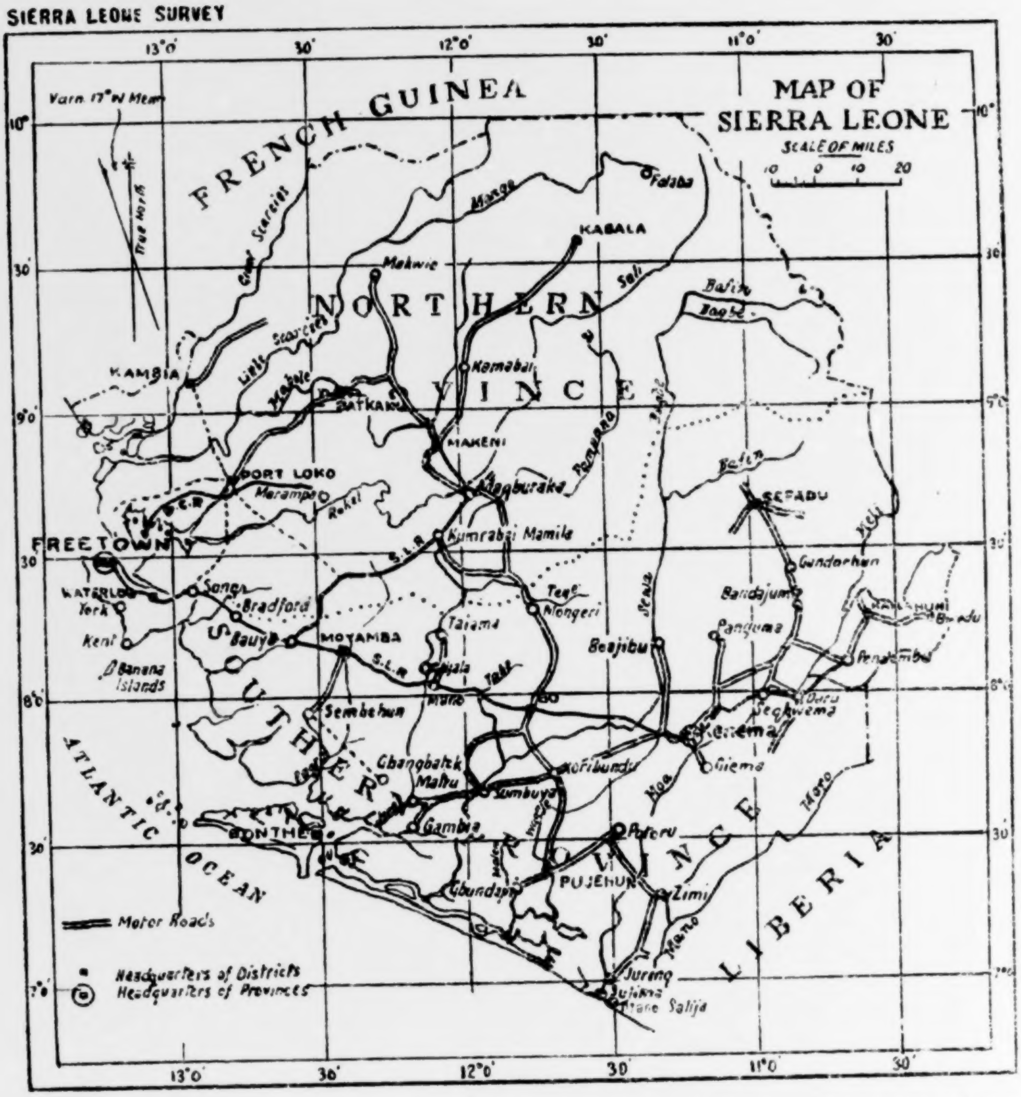
17–32 ,, ...	9	1 6
33–48 ,, ...	1 3	2 6
49–64 ,, ...	1 6	3 0
65–96 ,, ...	2 0	4 0
Exceeding 96 pages	2 6	5 0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock regardless of any price printed thereon.

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, each		12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930 and 1933, each		12	6	1	2
Customs Trade Report, 1934		5	0		5
Governor's Address on the Estimates, 1934–35			6		1
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year		1	6		2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent numbers, each			6		2
The Handbook of Sierra Leone		10	6		8
Sierra Leone Studies (abridged edition of Nos. 1, 2, 3)		1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, No. 6			6		2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7–18, each		1	0		2
Handbook of the Temne Language		5	0		3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language		10	6		3
Handbook on the Tse-tse Fly (Austen)		5	0		6
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by Sir H. C. Luke, Kt.		8	6		4
Beri-beri and the Freetown Prison		10	6		6
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vol. 1, by D. A. Bannerman	1	2	6	1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville		2	6		1½
Census Report, 1931		5	0		6
Mineral Ordinance Revised, 1935		7	6		6
Protectorate Road Chart (Motor Distance)		1	0		2
Tide Table, 1935			4		1
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon		1	0		2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone		1	4		2
History of Royal West African Frontier Force, by Lieut. R. P. M. Davis		7	6		2½
A Limba-English and English-Limba Dictionary, by Mary Lane Clarke		5	0		4
Crook's History of the Colony of Sierra Leone, Western Africa		1	6		4
Specimen of Languages, by N. W. Thomas		4	0		3


SIERRA LEONE SURVEY
MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
13°0' 30' 12°0' 30' 11°0' 30'
10° 30' 9°0' 30' 8°0' 30' 7°0'
Varn. 17° W Mean
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
FREETOWN
KAMBIA
BATKANU
PORT LOKO
MAKENI
Magburaka
KABALA
Falaba
Mabwie
Kamabai
Kumrabai Mamila
Marampa
Rokel
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
MOYAMBA
Taiama
Mongeri
Mano
BO
Sembehun
Gbangbatok
Mattru
Sumbuya
Gambia
Bonthe
Gbundapi
Pujehun
Potoru
Zimi
Sulima
Jurinq
Mano Salija
Blama
Kenema
Giema
Segbwema
Daru
Pendembu
Kailahun
Buedu
Bandajuma
Panguma
Gundorhun
Sefadu
Baiima
Koribundu
Great Scarcies
Little Scarcies
Mabole
Mongo
Seli
Pampana
Bafin
Bagbe
Sewa
Moa
Mano
Mona
Taia
Meli
S.L.R.
Motor Roads
Headquarters of Districts
Headquarters of Provinces

NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province have now been transferred from Magburaka to Freetown.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 11*d*.).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s*. (4*s*. 4*d*.).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

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Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 3*d*.).

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BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

SIERRA LEONE, 1935

(For Reports for 1933 and 1934 see Nos. 1678 and 1744 respectively (Price 2s. 0d. each).)

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[Colonial No. 95.] £1 5*s*. (£1 5*s*. 9*d*.).

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1st Edition, January, 1933. [Colonial No. 80.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Supplement to 1st Edition, 1st January, 1934.
[Colonial No. 92.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

COLONIAL SERVICE.
Report of Committee on Leave and Passage Conditions for the Colonial Service. [Cmd. 4730.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
Fifth Annual Report covering the period 1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934. [Cmd. 4634.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

EMPIRE SURVEY.
Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1931.
[Colonial No. 70.] £1 (£1 0*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and copies of Trade Agreements.
[Cmd. 4174.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 4175.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION.
Report of Imperial Committee, 1933. [Cmd 4335.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Report of Royal Commission, with Appendices and Maps.
[Cmd. 4480.] 5*s*. 6*d*. (5*s*. 11*d*.).
Papers relating to the Report. [Cmd. 4479.] 2*d*. (2½*d*.).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3234.] 6*s*. (6*s*. 5*d*.).
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit to East Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3378.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).
Report of Joint Select Committee. H.C. 156.
Vol. I—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).
Vol. II—Minutes and Evidence ... £1 10*s*. (£1 10*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. III—Appendices ... ... 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 11*d*.).

KENYA LAND COMMISSION.
Report, September, 1933. [Cmd. 4556.] 11*s*. (11*s*. 9*d*.).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 91.]
Vol. I ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. II ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. III ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Summary of Conclusions reached by His Majesty's Government.
[Cmd. 4580.] 2*d*. (2½*d*.).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the administration of Justice in Kenya, Uganda, and the Tanganyika Territory in Criminal Matters.
[Cmd. 4623.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 96.] £1 (£1 0*s*. 6*d*.).

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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE, 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or " orchard bush " country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced towards the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly " Harmattan " wind usually blows at intervals during the December—February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed the Harmattan carries down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average minimum and maximum may be placed at 74° and 87° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level. July and August are as a rule the wettest months.

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the " Liberated Africans " who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were al[illegible]ted and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June 1927, the 21st day of December 1928, and the 29th day of June 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is

appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is composed within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown.

(2) The Headquarters Judicial District.

(3) The Bonthe District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

This District which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927 ; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioner of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January 1924.

Bonthe District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Islands, York Island, and the four following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years it was, for political purposes, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out :—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;
(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and
(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each District is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and disinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any "palaver" which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax, and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 was 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census was 1,672,057, of which 796,391 were males and 875,666 were females, and consisted of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics, and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate was 231, of which 173 were males and 58 were females. Of this total 142 were British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which were included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate was 772—577 males and 195 females. These included 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate numbered 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These included Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans numbered 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case at the 1931 census.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population was as follows:—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives ...	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population				1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1935, 226 Syrians entered and 140 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,414 immigrants and 1,898 emigrants. All these entered and left the Colony by sea. The total number of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects was 380 and 161 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for births and deaths for the Colony for 1935 are as follows:—

(*a*) **Births—**

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
1,276	1,113	2,389	23·4

(The birth-rate as shown is probably too low owing to many births outside Freetown having escaped registration).

(*b*) **Deaths—**

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
1,324	1,100	2,424	23·7

As registration is not compulsory there are no reliable figures available for births and deaths in the Protectorate.

Infant Mortality.—The following are the figures for infant mortality for the Colony for 1935:—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000 live-births.*
304	248	552	231

(The infant mortality rate shown is probably too high owing to the absence of machinery for enforcing registration of births outside Freetown).

No figures for infant mortality are available for the Protectorate.

The last decennial census (1931) gave a total of 96,422 persons in the Colony as compared with 85,163 persons in 1921. The increase was due chiefly to immigration of natives from the Protectorate to Freetown, the rest of the Colony showing an increase of about 41 persons during this period. The estimated population at mid-year 1935 was 60,903.

The population of the Protectorate was recorded as 1,672,057 compared with 1,456,148 persons in 1921, the difference in this case being an actual increase due to natural increment and not to migratory or other causes.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1935 are :—

	Freetown.	*Village areas (Colony).*	*Headquarters District (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Christian ...	**146**	**27**	**10**	**7**	**36**	**226**
Mohammedan ...	**24**	**5**	—	—	**1**	**30**
Totals ...	**170**	**32**	**10**	**7**	**37**	**256**

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate. There is no registration of marriage by " Native Custom ".

IV—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

The exceptionally heavy rain experienced in 1935 was in a large measure a contributory cause of the increased incidence of disease experienced in that year. Increases were especially noticeable in the respiratory and skeletal groups, while malaria recorded an appreciable jump in cases treated.

The increase in avitaminosis is apparent rather than real, and is due largely to the easier recognition of this deficiency state which was first recorded in any number only three years ago.

As in the former year the figures quoted refer only to cases treated at the Government Institutions; they do not include cases treated at Mission Hospitals and Mission Centres. In conformity with former practice a tabular list shows in comparative manner the cases treated in 1934 and 1935.

The steady growth of mining activities in the Protectorate probably accounts for the increase in external injuries, many of which ultimately reach Freetown for medical treatment.

Disease.	*1934.*	*1935.*
Malaria	**6,197**	**7,718**
Yaws	**7,362**	**6,539**
Chronic rheumatism	**7,559**	**7,642**
Conjunctivitis	**841**	**903**
Affections of the ear	**924**	**940**
Lymphadenitis, bubo (non-specific)	**621**	**620**
Coryza	**1,031**	**1,100**

Disease.	*1934.*	*1935.*
Acute bronchitis	6,106	6,905
Chronic bronchitis	3,994	5,301
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,539	1,627
Gastritis	563	440
Dyspepsia	4,350	3,827
Abscess	529	500
Scabies	961	1,296
Arthritis	1,481	1,624
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	857	745
Other external injuries	3,756	5,132
Asthenia	845	951
Syphilis	476	566
Gonorrhoea	2,234	2,526
Avitaminosis	455	1,311

Mortality.

Only in Freetown can any accurate figures be obtained as to the number of deaths and their causes. Elsewhere, although the machinery exists, it is entirely dependent on the willingness of the people to come forward for treatment, and, in fatal cases, to register the deaths. Every effort is made to register all deaths occurring in Freetown and, as the Medical Department controls the burial of diseased persons, the figures for deaths occurring in Freetown can be taken as fairly accurate. Only the education and the greater advancement of the indigenous population can enable us to obtain reliable figures for the Protectorate.

Principal Causes of Deaths—1935.

Appended is a list showing the principal causes of deaths as registered. The deaths as registered in Freetown are the approximate statement of the mortality causes :—

Causes.	*Freetown (including Cline Town) 1,375.*	
	Number.	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	222	16·0
Malaria	179	13·0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	84	6·1
Senility	80	5·8
Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	73	5·3
Infantile Convulsions	64	4·6
Nephritis	61	4·4
Cerebral hæmorrage	45	3·2
Valvular disease	41	2·9
Prematurity	21	1·5
Strangulated Hernia	15	1·0
Hemiplegia	14	1·0

The number of deaths registered on medical certificate was 441, comprising 32·0 per cent. of the deaths registered.

Causes of deaths for the rest of the Colony are not available, the figures being very unreliable owing to the absence of a Medical Officer or Dispenser in the majority of the registration areas.

Provision for Treatment.

The Government hospital facilities in the Colony remain as they were in 1934, i.e., the Connaught Hospital in Freetown and the Government Hospital in Bonthe.

A comparative statement of the cases treated at these institutions during 1934 and 1935 is given below. Generally the figures for 1935 show an increase over those for 1934, the most noticeable item being that of " subsequent attendances " at the Connaught Hospital; this indicates a greater appreciation of benefit on the part of the patients reporting.

The figures of attendance at the Connaught and Bonthe Hospitals are as follows :—

Connaught Hospital—	*1934.*	*1935.*
In-patients	2,464	2,672
Out-patients—New cases	17,155	18,635
Subsequent attendances	105,511	135,094
Operations	2,281	2,246
Bonthe Hospital—		
In-patients	425	371
Out-patients—New cases	5,080	2,983
Subsequent attendances	15,888	13,670

Protectorate.—During the period under review a new Protectorate type hospital of permanent construction was completed in Moyamba. The Mission hospitals continue as formerly, aided by the subsidy given by Government; during the year good progress was made with the construction of a semi-permanent hospital at Kamakwie, the centre of the American Wesleyan Mission.

The Government hospitals at Bo and Makeni both record increases in their activity; a comparative table for 1934 and 1935 is given below.

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Southern Province—	*1934.*	*1935.*
In-patients	410	445
Out-patients—New cases	2,379	2,962
Subsequent attendances	16,046	18,561
Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province—		
In-patients	204	241
Out-patients—New cases	1,919	2,563
Subsequent attendances	8,620	9,951

Dispensaries.—During the year there was no change in these facilities.

Midwives.—As a logical sequence of the passing of the new Midwives Ordinance, a beginning was made in the training of African midwives. During the year four pupils were enrolled.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The removal of this centre to larger and more accessible quarters near the Connaught Hospital has led to a most welcome use of the centre by expectant women and nursing mothers. Admissions to the labour ward show the greatest increase ever recorded. The table below shows these increases when compared with 1934, and also gives the number of cases treated at the Princess Christian Mission Hospital which serves the east ward of the city.

The work of the Health Visitors steadily increases, and, as these officers are directly controlled and supervised by the Medical Officer in charge of the Maternity Centre, there is a resultant increase in the amount of after-care which nursing mothers and young infants are receiving.

	Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1934.	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Ante-natal attendances	4,684	5,981	1,265	981
Labour cases admitted	331	554	76	42
Health visits	5,008	11,985	3,489	3,551
Infant welfare clinic attendances	10,681	12,056	6,564	4,414

Sanitation.

Though the epidemic of smallpox which began in 1932 still continues in a less severe form, it is satisfactory to record a diminution in the numbers of cases and deaths from this disease.

The undetected entrance of an infected Protectorate native into Freetown gave rise to a localized outbreak in June; 22 cases resulted, but the outbreak was quickly controlled.

The table below gives the figures for the Colony and Protectorate during 1935.

Area.	*Number of cases discovered.*	*Number of deaths.*	*Number of vaccinations.*
Colony Districts—			
Freetown	61*	8	13,498
Headquarters Judicial	146	23	2,113
Sherbro	7	—	2,436
Protectorate Districts—			
Northern Province—			
Port Loko	353	57	1,552
Kambia	3	—	1,026
Karene	17	—	294
Bombali	133	3	3,412
Koinadugu	42	—	1,244
Southern Province—			
Kailahun	30	4	335
Kono	22	6	1,364
Kenema	2	1	2,049
Bo	328	93	2,841
Moyamba	243	34	8,369
Pujehun	212	30	3,776
Totals	1,599	259	44,309

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* Of these cases 21 were imported.

General Sanitary Progress.

The services of the Chief Sanitary Superintendent were wholly utilized during 1935 in improving sanitary conditions in the Protectorate. Three towns accidentally destroyed by fire were rebuilt on sanitary lay-outs under his personal supervision, and many other Protectorate towns were provided with sanitary structures, markets, etc., from funds provided by the Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund.

This sanitary improvement of Protectorate towns is now a definite part of the Medical Department's programme, and it will be continued on a progressive scale in later years.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses with concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm-tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or of native timber boarding, and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables houseowners and prospective houseowners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately 22 new houses have been erected at a cost of about £8,500.

In addition, a building scheme has been introduced by a firm of timber merchants in Freetown. Under this scheme, prospective owners of the type of house property costing from £250 to £600 can erect buildings under the supervision of the firm both expeditiously and inexpensively, payment being made by an initial small deposit followed by monthly instalments.

In connexion with this scheme, Government has laid out and has leased to the firm a small model residential area which enables intending houseowners to obtain (by assignment from the firm) leases of building plots at a moderate ground rent and with an option to purchase the freehold within 20 years.

Seven houses have now been completed on this area.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm-tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI—PRODUCTION.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities in Sierra Leone are platinum, gold, diamonds, iron and probably chromite and ilmenite. All but the last two were mined during the year and new deposits of gold and diamonds were found.

Platinum.—Of the few individuals and small syndicates who were attracted to the platinum field towards the close of 1934 only two reached the producing stage. Some rich pockets were worked by the only company interested in platinum, thus raising the year's production to 750 ounces which is a record.

Gold.—More individuals and local syndicates continued to enter the field and some are making headway. Applications received for mining ground in respect of gold were nearly twice as numerous as in 1934. This is indicative of the great attraction offered by gold mining.

Up to the present gold produced in Sierra Leone has been mined from alluvial deposits. However, active prospecting was continued on the lode at Pujehun and one or two more promising indications of lode formations have been discovered. Generally much greater interest was taken in lode prospecting.

The gold mining field has widened to include part of Karene District, Northern Province, and Kailahun and Kenema Districts, Southern Province, as well as the already known mining areas in Koinadugu and Bombali Districts of the Northern Province and Bo and Kono Districts of the Southern Province. The last, which was a closed area, was thrown open to general prospecting just before the end of the year. Applications for mining ground have been lodged, but production has not yet commenced.

The year's production of 32,947 ounces (crude) of an estimated value of £219,323 exceeds the previous year's record of 22,614 ounces.

Diamonds.—The agreement between Government and the Consolidated African Selection Trust, Limited, has now been ratified and a subsidiary Company under the name of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust, Limited, has been incorporated having the sole right to prospect for and win diamonds in Sierra Leone. Government benefits by means of a tax on profits. All rents are commuted and a sum of £7,000 is payable annually to the Protectorate

Mining Benefits Trust Fund (all mineral rents accruing from the Protectorate are paid into this fund which is used exclusively for the benefit of the natives of the Protectorate).

The production is now on a large scale and amounted to 291,837 carats during 1935. The diamond is of gem quality and considerable reserves have been discovered. Sierra Leone is now established as one of the important diamond fields of the world.

Iron Ore.—The mining of the hematite iron ore is now also an established industry. The deposits now being worked occur near Marampa. Larger deposits have been discovered near the head-waters of the Tonkolili River in Tonkolili District. A survey for a proposed extension of the railway from Marampa to the Tonkolili area has been completed, but it will be some time before the latter deposit is exploited.

Production of iron ore from the Marampa deposits during 1935 amounted to 433,540 tons.

Labour.—Mining is absorbing a large number of unskilled African labourers and offering employment to some skilled artisans and clerks. Labour is generally plentiful but seasonal shortages during the planting season are sometimes experienced. Below is appended a comparative table showing the numbers of African labourers employed since the inception of mining in Sierra Leone :—

Comparative table showing numbers of African labourers engaged in connexion with prospecting and mining. (Figures for Marampa-Pepel Railway Construction 1930-2 *not included.)*

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Daily average for the year ...	48	384	718	1,782	4,480	6,075	9,445

Agricultural Produce.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The year 1935 was a record one for the export of rice; some 1,024 tons were exported, chiefly to Bathurst, Gambia, while imports were negligible. The 1935 crop, which supplies food till September, 1936, was an average one although rather late.

Considerable progress was made in the Scarcies area. One of the imported varieties of seed which has proved successful was multiplied considerably, and distributed for production by farmers in the Scarcies area in 1935. A good return was obtained and this variety can now be established in that area. Other introductions and selections are being studied; some of the varieties showed great promise in 1934 and 1935 and further work with these is being carried on. It is hoped that very shortly the production of some of the pure strains of the better varieties will be on a sufficiently large scale to allow of milling separately in sufficient quantities to try the various markets along the West Coast.

Cassava.—The Agricultural Department has continued its efforts to eliminate " mosaic " disease, which causes great loss in the yield of cassava, and good progress has been made.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—Seventy-eight thousand and nineteen tons of kernels were exported in 1935. Unfortunately the prices prevailing were still low and the value only reached £583,645. The price is less than half that of 1928.

Ginger.—An average amount of ginger was harvested and the price was better than in 1934, but was still low.

Piassava.—The export of piassava for 1935 was slightly below the record established during the previous year but the price slightly improved. The quality both of Sherbro and of Sulima piassava was well maintained. The export figures for the last seven years show that this product has suffered less violent fluctuations in price than other Sierra Leone products.

Kola.—The exports of kola improved slightly during 1935 but the trade in this product is still depressed. For many years kola has been, next to palm kernels, the chief agricultural export and the effect of the loss of so much of the kola trade will be severely felt. The volume (1,859 tons) was little more than one-half that of 1928 and the value (£39,415) less than one-seventh.

Cocoa.—For a long time there have been small quantities of cocoa exported. In 1935 the amount reached 164 tons.

Coffee.—A small amount of coffee is grown for local consumption and for export. So far only negligible quantities have been exported, but the native cultivator is interested in this crop and shows signs of increasing production.

Fruits.—Investigations with regard to grapefruit, oranges, bananas and pineapples continue but it will take some time before there is any real export in those products.

Live Stock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the live stock of this country. Cattle-farming is carried out on a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country, and pigs to a small extent. There are a few horses, the majority of which also come from French territory. The value of the export in hides amounted to £1,156 in 1935.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1935 amounted to £1,214,315 as compared with £805,227 in 1934, being an increase of £409,088.

The following table shows the value of imports by classes during the years 1934 and 1935 :—

	1934. £	*1935.* £	*Increase.* £
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	189,315	209,551	20,236
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	60,200	72,909	12,709
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	503,764	816,438	312,674
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	23,055	27,658	4,603
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc.	28,893	87,759	58,866
Totals... ...	805,227	1,214,315	409,088

Compared with 1934, there were increases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I. "Food" by £1,067, "Drink" by £6,275, and "Tobacco" (mainly unmanufactured) by £12,894.

Commercial coal was mainly responsible for the increase in Class II, the value being £12,186 more than the 1934 imports.

With few exceptions all items under Class III recorded an increase, particularly cotton piece-goods (£189,634).

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piece-goods, including velveteen, for the years 1931 to 1935 :—

Year.	*Quantity.* *Sq. yds.*	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1931	5,014,822	121,960	22,302
1932	11,169,367	262,959	48,651
1933	6,129,891	124,702	24,047
1934	5,638,488	107,740	26,524
1935	14,207,762	297,455	72,593

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1934 and 1935 :—

	Value.		*Percentage.*	
	1934. £	*1935.* £	*1934.*	*1935.*
United Kingdom	470,100	852,124	58·38	70·17
British West African Possessions ...	6,226	34,837	0·77	2·87
British Possessions (other)	145,132	133,605	18·03	11·02
France	11,696	13,159	1·45	1·08
Germany	22,146	31,749	2·75	2·61
Holland	4,455	8,448	0·55	0·70
United States of America	69,118	74,293	8·59	6·11
Japan	28,770	9,258	3·57	0·76
Foreign West African Possessions ...	974	5,034	0·12	0·41
Other European Countries	37,506	41,016	4·66	3·38
Other Countries	9,104	10,792	1·13	0·89
Totals	805,227	1,214,315	100·00	100·00

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year 1935 amounted to £1,583,834 (domestic exports being £1,556,816 and non-domestic £27,018).

The following table shows the value of exports by classes during the years 1934 and 1935 :—

	1934. £	*1935.* £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Class I.—				
Food, Drink and Tobacco	28,361	46,982	18,621	—
Class II.—				
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured	663,698	1,283,271	619,573	—
Class III.—				
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	15,357	14,554	—	803
Class IV.—				
Animals not for food	282	629	347	—
Class V.—				
Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes...	304,177	238,398	—	65,779
Totals	1,011,875	1,583,834	638,541	66,582

The following table is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1934 and 1935 :—

		1934.		*1935.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Benniseed	tons	208	1,856	370	3,122
Cocoa, raw	„	138	1,755	164	2,043
Diamonds	value	—	144,861	—	402,067
Ginger	cwt.	33,172	23,254	30,121	36,918
Hides (cattle) tanned	lb.	9,577	481	13,905	770
Kola nuts	cwt.	29,206	18,304	37,183	39,415
Palm kernels	tons	68,655	360,780	78,019	583,645
Palm oil	„	2,225	18,032	2,892	35,814
Peppers	lb.	75,569	1,015	40,385	665
Piassava	tons	3,659	30,390	3,438	30,997
Platinum	oz.	339	2,567	556	3,871
Rice	tons	222	1,204	1,024	6,183
Gold	oz.	22,733	140,483	33,216	225,423
Gum copal	tons	—	—	—	—
Iron ore	value	—	84,355	—	178,848

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1934 and 1935 :—

Country.	*Value. 1934.*	*Percentage. 1934.*	*Value. 1935.*	*Percentage. 1935.*
	£		£	
United Kingdom	679,163	67·12	1,078,923	68·12
British West African Possessions	31,490	3·11	48,822	3·08
British Possessions (other) ...	3,489	0·35	5,861	0·37
France	1,963	0·19	1,628	0·10
Germany	148,010	14·63	179,074	11·31
Holland	84,402	8·34	124,589	7·87
United States of America ...	20,409	2·02	39,110	2·46
Japan	750	0·07	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions	9,244	0·91	9,122	0·58
Other European Countries ...	30,205	2·99	90,721	5·73
Other Countries	2,750	0·27	5,984	0·38
Totals	1,011,875	100·00	1,583,834	100·00

Palm kernels.—Seventy-eight thousand and nineteen tons, or 9,364 tons in excess of 1934, were shipped. The Home market price advanced from £7 17s. 6d. in January to £11 7s. 6d. in December and averaged throughout the year £9 15s. 4d. as compared with £7 3s. 2d. in 1934.

Germany purchased 18,695 tons, a decrease on the figure of 1934 of 7,434 tons. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 35,589 tons or an increase of 9,965 tons. Exports to Holland fell from 14,758 to 14,711 tons.

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years :—

Year.	*Quantity. Tons.*	*Value. £*
1931	54,462	449,742
1932	77,162	687,477
1933	64,083	472,824
1934	68,655	360,780
1935	78,019	583,645

State of Trade.

The following comparative table summarises the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years :—

Year.	*Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).*	*Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).*	*Net Imports.*	*Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.*	*Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.*	*Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1931	991,120	75,376	915,744	616,337	299,407	—	340,056	3,927,457
1932	1,219,588	20,749	1,198,839	878,424	320,415	—	452,880	3,286,299
1933	817,108	18,306	798,802	753,930	44,872	—	371,686	3,509,799
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310
1935	1,126,556	14,043	1,112,513	1,556,816	—	444,303	441,966	4,794,868

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (Public Works).—In Freetown during 1935, Public Works artisans were paid from 2s. to 5s. 9d. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. a day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 6d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. for journeymen.

Labourers (Public Works).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was from 10d. to 1s. a day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 1s. 9d.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 6d. to 10d. while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 8d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the Colony's staple food, was obtainable at from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a bushel or 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 3d. per kettle.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

An Education Ordinance passed in 1929 provides a complete code for all Colony and Protectorate Schools. Separate Schedules for Rules which apply to the Colony and Protectorate respectively, differ in the important means of providing Government grants-in-aid.

In the Colony the schools are conducted by Boards of Managers as a result of the amalgamation of the mission primary schools. The Managers are responsible for the upkeep of the school buildings, but the Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment in the primary schools. All school fees are paid into Government revenue.

The secondary schools on the Assisted List in the Colony receive capitation and equipment grants-in-aid. Grants are also paid to qualified teachers.

In the Protectorate, the assisted schools receive capitation, building, and equipment grants, but the salaries of the teachers are paid by the mission authorities. Additional grants to qualified teachers in the Protectorate are paid by Government.

Colony Schools.—In the Colony there are at present 49 assisted primary schools with 7,097 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 5,236.

The assisted secondary schools (which in some cases provide primary and preparatory education as well as secondary) may be summarized as follows :—

Boys—Six schools with 64 primary, 212 preparatory, and 338 secondary pupils.

Girls—Five schools with 426 primary, 136 preparatory, and 118 secondary pupils.

Included in the boys' secondary schools is the Prince of Wales School, established and maintained entirely by Government. This school makes special provision for the teaching of science and for technical instruction, and is liberally equipped with laboratories and workshops.

There are also three assisted schools in the Colony providing technical training—The Albert Academy (carpentry and printing), the Sir Alfred Jones Trade School (carpentry and cabinet making) and the American Methodist Episcopal Girls' Industrial School (domestic science and arts).

With regard to the education of girls, domestic science in all its branches forms a most important part of their curriculum. A special examination is held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas are awarded to successful students. Provision is also made at the Roman Catholic Convent School for instruction in this subject to girls who have already left school and are contemplating marriage. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian Mission Hospital.

Scholarships tenable at the Women Teachers' Training College at Wilberforce are awarded to girls from the secondary schools. The College is residential and is financed and largely controlled by Government.

Higher education for boys is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University. Arts and theological courses are provided.

A separate course for the training of men teachers is also provided at the Fourah Bay College. Residential scholarships are awarded annually by Government, which also finances the scheme for teacher training.

Protectorate Schools.—In the Protectorate nine missionary authorities conduct 83 assisted schools with 5,063 boys and 1,792 girls on the rolls. In addition, these bodies conduct 94 unassisted schools with an estimated total of 2,457 pupils.

Government controls four boys' schools in the Protectorate with 275 pupils. These, with an exception of the Bo School and the Koyeima School, are rural schools of junior grades.

Bo School.—The Bo School was established by Government in 1906 for the education of the sons and nominees of chiefs. It aims at providing the boys with a liberal education in preparation for the important work they will probably be called upon to undertake in connexion with their chiefdoms. Hygiene and sanitation, town-planning, building, and manual training form part of the curriculum.

Koyeima School.—The Central School at Koyeima is intended to provide education for Protectorate youths beyond that given in the primary schools. The school provides training in such technical subjects as woodwork, building, tailoring and agriculture.

Music, etc.—The natives of Sierra Leone have a gift for music—both vocal and instrumental. Most of the large churches and chapels have pipe organs which are played by African organists. Many Africans, too, show skill on the pianoforte and other instruments. The band of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force, is an outstanding example of how far musical art can be developed.

A special music master has been engaged to teach singing on correct lines in the schools, and very good results have been achieved. Naturally, the children excel in rendering negro spirituals, but they have made great progress in music of a more classical nature. An annual singing competition has been inaugurated among the schools and this has been highly appreciated and the competition is very keen.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick, and the burial of deceased destitute persons, remained the same during 1935 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about 5 miles from Freetown.

X.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads; there is, however, a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road from Hill Station, 3 miles in length, affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 50 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 31 miles are motorable—the principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface-water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—The total mileage of maintained roads in the Protectorate is 792½. The roads are surfaced with laterite and are for the greater part 16 feet wide.

The majority of the bridges are built with concrete abutments and piers, and steel joists carrying a timber deck, but there still remains a number of timber beam and trestle bridges which are being reconstructed to a standard type, with a 9 feet wide deck, as their condition requires and funds permit. In addition to the above Government-maintained roads there are Chiefs' roads constructed and maintained by tribal authorities concerned which are not usually open to heavy motor vehicles and are sometimes not available for motor traffic in the wet season.

In cases where the width of rivers has rendered the construction of bridges financially impracticable, ferries are used. There are fifteen such ferries in the Protectorate, the pontoons being constructed of timber with one exception which has a steel pontoon. The pontoons are connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled traveller moving on a steel cable-way which is slung between towers on the bank. The pontoon is impelled across the river partly by the action of the current and partly by the boat crew hauling on a light steel hand-line also slung between the banks.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1935 was 311 miles: the gauge is 2 ft. 6 ins.

Capital expenditure on the railway to the 31st December 1935, was £1,428,239.

The total revenue of the railway was £180,005 which shows an increase of £28,791 over the figure for the previous year. The revenue includes £1,084 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £186,555 which shows a reduction of £3,964 as compared with 1934. This total includes £78,547 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Working expenditure amounted to £128,862 and gross receipts to £180,005.

Passenger journeys in the year were 449,513, an increase of 72,390 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 71,628 tons against 59,938 in 1934.

	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88	8 11·03	9 7·69
Working expenses per train mile	5 1·09*	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98	7 8·82	6 10·82
Passengers carried ...	438,388	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123	449,513
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024	58,866	59,938	71,628

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of five miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, on the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1935 consisted of five passenger vehicles and two goods lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 232,090 and the gross receipts amounted to £2,937.

The staff employed was :—

European	1
Africans	19
Total	20

Postal Business.

There was considerable increase in postal business during 1935. Postal business was conducted from 12 post offices and 56 postal agencies; money-order business from 23 and postal-order business from 53 offices.

The total revenue collected was £22,331 as against a sum of £18,652 in the previous year. Of this amount £15,216 was derived from direct postal revenue, £5,457 from Customs duty on parcels, and £1,658 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds dealt with during the year was 2,003,800 as compared with 1,803,800 in 1934. Included therein are 79,700 registered articles. Money-order transactions increased from 3,541 (value £21,443) in 1934 to 3,728 (value £20,921) in 1935.

The total number and value of postal-orders issued during the year was 50,381 and £30,748, and the number and value of postal-orders paid was 41,523 and £26,110 as compared with the figures for the previous year which were—orders issued 43,948, value £25,121; orders paid 37,459, value £22,294.

The parcel post transactions showed an increase, 32,180 parcels being handled as against 28,334 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (with Great Britain only) 8,512 parcels were received (value £14,451) as compared with 6,164 (value £10,500) in 1934.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo; this system is connected up by branches with most of the district headquarters in the Protectorate. The total mileage is 1,099¼, plus the railway traffic control line of 455 miles.

Telephones.

The only service is that in Freetown and district, maintained by the Railway Department. The total mileage is 392¾.

Broadcast Relay Service.

The Broadcast Service was inaugurated in May 1934, and is owned and controlled by Government.

It is a relay service which operates on the rediffusion principle. The equipment, consisting of rectifying apparatus, two short-wave battery operated receivers and five power amplifiers, together with studio and gramophone equipment, is of the latest design. The power amplifiers are capable of giving a combined undistorted output of 300 watts.

Directional reflector aerials are used and are erected 500 ft. above sea level.

The station relays as a standard programme the whole of Transmissions II and IV in the Empire programme from Daventry on wavelengths of 13, 16, 19, 25 and 31 metres. All transmissions from Daventry are receivable at good signal strength in normal circumstances.

The number of subscribers up to date is over 720.

Cables and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless Limited maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and America broadcasting on suitable short-wavelengths.

Shipping.

There was an increase of 69 in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 262,061. Of a total of 2,397,361 tons entered, 59·77 per cent. was British, 11·36 German, 5·44 Italian, 6·25 French and 7·02 American.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports :—

Line.	*From*	*Frequency of calls.*
American West African Line.	New York	2 monthly (average) with passengers and general cargo.
Compania Transmediterranea.	Barcelona, Valencia, Madrid and Cadiz.	Passengers monthly.
Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd.	United Kingdom coastal ports.	Passengers fortnightly. Cargo frequently.
Do. do.	Continental ports ...	Cargo every 3 weeks.
Do. do.	Canada	Monthly.
Fabre-Fraissinet ...	Marseilles	,,
Holland West African Lijn.	Hamburg, Amsterdam, Le Havre and coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Passengers and cargo—monthly each.
Navigazione Libera Trestina (Italian).	Genoa and coast ports	Cargo—monthly.
Woermann Linie ...	Hamburg, Southampton and continental ports, Hamburg and continental ports.	Passenger—fortnightly. Cargo—fortnightly.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Liverpool and coast ports.	Passengers and cargo—twice monthly.
Société Navele de l'Ouest and Chargeurs Réunis.	Marseilles and coast ports.	Passengers and cargo—monthly.
L'Equatoriale (Italian)	Genoa and coast ports	Cargo—monthly.
Compania Navierra Amaya (Spanish).	Continental and African ports.	One in 2 months.

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes, and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about 4 tons. During recent years motor launches have come into use and this form of water transport appears to be growing increasingly popular with the natives.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony—Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima, and Mano Salija.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with nineteen agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1935, was £71,355.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are :—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins ;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d. ;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations ; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February 1920, were introduced in July 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928 ; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During 1935 the Sanders Brook Canal was completed. The previous year's work had terminated at a point near the plant and tool store in the Public Works Department compound. The canal was extended approximately 830 feet to a point near the stone factory where it divided into two smaller channels, one channel turning South for a distance of approximately 113 feet and terminating at a small bridge near the crushery. The other channel proceeds East for a distance of approximately 616 feet and terminates at a catchment basin at the foot of the hill where the stream enters the valley.

A reinforced concrete bridge was constructed across the canal to give access to the laterite quarry.

New Passenger Jetty.—The erection of the new passenger jetty was commenced on the 28th September and by the end of the year the first two rows of the piles had been driven and the top bracing bolted in position. The steel trough flooring was laid to the first bay only as, owing to the design of the structure, the beams and troughing could only be laid temporarily for the second bay.

New Hospital, Moyamba.—During the first half of the year a new hospital was constructed at Moyamba on the site of the existing hospital buildings. The lay-out consisted of an out-patients block comprising a consulting room, dispensary, store and operating theatre and a ward block providing accommodation for eight male and four female patients with necessary sanitation and ablution annexes.

The buildings were constructed in concrete blocks with corrugated asbestos roofing and the design is such that little fear of damage due to the ingress of termites need be apprehended.

The hospital shows evidence of good workmanship and neat finish, and credit is due to Mr. W. H. Brown, the European Foreman of Works in charge, for completing the work at such an exceptionally low cost.

Rice Mill.—Towards the end of the year work was commenced on the construction of a rice mill at Harbour Works, Cline Town, in connexion with the development of the rice industry. The work comprised the erection of a mill, rice store, drying ground and seeping tanks, a motor drive approach and a footpath to the foreshore. The buildings are constructed in timber framing sheeted with galvanized corrugated iron, standing on concrete dwarf walls provided with a zinc anti-termite course.

At the end of the year the drying ground, drive and footpath were completed, the store framed up and practically sheeted, and the mill building in frame.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power. In certain cases special tariffs have been approved for other than private consumers, each having a favourable decreasing rate of charge in a manner similar to that for users of domestic appliances. Such special tariffs are based upon the various different average consumptions of current of each consumer.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony :—

(i) *The Supreme Court (Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap.* 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests ", or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows :—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court ".

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " The District Court ".

A Provisional Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to the supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as "Joint Judges" to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision to all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, in **1935.**

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons. discharged.*	*Committed for trial in the Supreme Court.*
Assault and Battery ...	**104**	**129**	**97**	**30**	**2**
Harbour offences ...	**47**	**68**	**65**	**3**	—
Stowaways	**16**	**14**	**9**	**5**	—
Customs offences ...	**45**	**53**	**52**	**1**	—
Housebreaking	**17**	**27**	**10**	**3**	**14**
Burglary...	**15**	**12**	**5**	**3**	**4**
Larceny	**438**	**506**	**374**	**129**	**3**
Larceny from Ship ...	**13**	**16**	**13**	**3**	—
Public Health offences...	**64**	**67**	**65**	**2**	—
Shop breaking	**16**	—	—	—	—
Larceny from a house ...	**75**	**77**	**60**	**15**	**2**
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	**5**	**8**	**2**	**6**	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence	**21**	**41**	**39**	**2**	—
Disorderly conduct ...	**70**	**127**	**110**	**17**	—
Fighting	**24**	**49**	**45**	**4**	—
Drunk	**21**	**21**	**21**	—	—
Wounding	**5**	**10**	**4**	**2**	**4**
TOTALS	**996**	**1,225**	**971**	**225**	**29**

Juvenile Offenders.

Larceny	25	25	18*	7	—
Assault and Battery ...	—	—	—	—	—
Throwing Stones ...	—	—	—	—	—
Committing Nuisance ...	3	3	3	—	—
TOTALS	28	28	21	7	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1935.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number of persons imprisoned.*	*Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.*	*Number of persons condemned.*	*Number of persons discharged.*
Port Loko	5	5	—	—	—
Bombali...	5	1	1	—	3
Kambia	1	—	—	—	1
Karene	—	—	—	—	—
Bo	2	—	—	—	2
Kailahun...	4	2	—	—	2
Kenema	8	2	—	1	5
Moyamba	7	5	—	—	2
Pujehun	3	1	1	—	1
Bonthe	1	—	—	1	—
Koinadugu	—	—	—	—	—
Kono	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	37	17	2	2	16

Police.

During the year 1935, the strength of the Police Force was increased by one Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Prisons.

There are now 11 prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows:—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons; Kambia, Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni, Batkanu.

Southern Province, local prisons; Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Masanki.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the years 1934 and 1935 was as follows:—

	1934.	*1935.*
Males	831	933
Females	16	12
Juvenile adults	—	4
Juvenile offenders	25	14

The total daily average number in custody was:—

1934.	*1935.*
259	243

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* Juvenile Adults, persons between the ages of 16 years and 19 years=14
Juvenile Offenders, persons below the age of 16 years=4.

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the years 1934 and 1935 was :—

	1934.	1935.
Males	1,094	1,050
Females	4	5

The daily average number in custody was 143 as against 134 in 1934.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was five, compared with two in 1934.

Industrial.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and planting fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of rice-milling, tailoring, tarpaulin and mattress making, bread-making and carpentry.

XIV—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1935 were :—

The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 1935,

The Infanticide Ordinance, 1935,

The Processions Ordinance, 1935,

The Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance, 1935,

The Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force Ordinance, 1935,

The Diamond Agreements and Licence (Ratification) Ordinance, 1935,

The Diamond Industry Profit Tax Ordinance, 1935,

The Appeals from Magistrates Ordinance, 1935.

Of these Ordinances the *Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance*, 1935, is based on an English Institute of similar title. It provides in general that all causes of action, subject to a few exceptions, subsisting against or vested in a dead person are to survive against or for the benefit of his estate. The exceptions include actions which may be considered as purely personal matters and where the presence of the party liable is of the utmost importance. Briefly, the Ordinance abolishes to a very considerable extent the ancient legal doctrine *actio personalis moritur cum persona* which, although weakened by certain Acts of the Legislature and judicial decisions, was still regarded as productive of much injustice. Certain amendments of importance to the Fatal Accidents Acts are included. The Ordinance further empowers the Court to award interest on debts and damages for the whole or any part of the period betwen the date of the cause of the action and that of the judgment subject to certain exceptions.

The Infanticide Ordinance, 1935, brought the Laws of Sierra Leone into conformity with the laws of England in regard to women who are convicted of certain offences normally punishable with death by adopting the principles embodied in the Infanticide Act of 1922.

By the *Processions Ordinance*, 1935, processions in the Freetown Police District are prohibited except under a permit from the Commissioner of Police. The Ordinance does not apply to certain processions, such as marriage, funeral or scouts processions. The existing Road Traffic (Procession) Rules, 1926, which have proved inadequate are repealed. Power is given to the Governor in Council to extend the Ordinance to other portions of the Colony.

The principle of the *Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance*, 1935, is to secure, on a basis of reciprocity, the enforcement of judgments obtained in Sierra Leone in foreign countries. Part I applies also to British Dominions, Protectorates and Mandated territories, and to judgments obtained in the Courts of those territories, in the same manner as it applies to foreign countries and to judgments obtained in the Courts of those countries. This latter provision has involved the amendment of the existing Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance, 1924.

The Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force Ordinance, 1935, provides for the creation of a Naval Volunteer Force in Sierra Leone. A previous enactment which had never been brought into force, dealing with the same subject, is repealed.

The *Diamond Agreements and Licence (Ratification) Ordinance*, 1935, validates and confirms two agreements and a licence granted by the Government to the Sierra Leone Selection Trust Limited whereby the sole and exclusive right to explore for, produce, and market diamonds throughout the greater part of Sierra Leone was conferred upon the Company. Provision is made to safeguard the interests of all Companies or persons engaged in mining operations for minerals other than diamonds. The Ordinance also specifies the consideration granted to Government and regulates the operations of the Company.

The *Diamond Industry Profit Tax Ordinance*, 1935, provides for the imposition of a profits tax on any person or Company engaged in the production and sale of diamonds. The Ordinance follows the customary form and machinery is provided to deal with any dispute as to the amount of tax payable.

The *Appeals from Magistrates Ordinance*, 1935, brings the law relating to appeals from courts of summary jurisdiction in the Colony into line with legislation recently enacted in the other West African Colonies. It is made perfectly clear that the Crown may appeal in all cases. It is provided that every appeal shall be made in the form of a Petition in writing containing all the essential particulars of an appeal, including the grounds upon which the appeal is brought. The Registrar of the Appeal Court is made responsible for the procedure preliminary to an appeal. Provision is introduced for the first time for appeals by way of case stated in points of law and permission is given in certain cases for a further appeal to the West African Court of Appeal.

The following are the more important subordinate legislative enactments which came into force during the year :—

The *Minerals (Export Prohibition) Order in Council*, 1935, prohibits the export of raw gold and diamonds except on a permit from the Chief Inspector of Mines. It further provides that raw gold can only be exported through a bank to an approved refinery.

The *Forestry (Fees and Royalties) Order in Council*, 1935, which reformulated the fees and royalties payable on timbers taken from forest reserves.

The *Treaty of Peace (Covenant of the League of Nations) (Adaptation) Order in Council*, 1935, adapted for the purposes of Sierra Leone the Order of His Majesty in Council enacted with reference to the action of the Italian Government in Abyssinia.

The Minerals (Enclosed Areas) Rules, 1935, gave the Sierra Leone Selection Trust Limited extended powers to facilitate its diamond mining operations.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on the 31st December 1935, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows :—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1935 ...		**101,474**
Revenue, 1935	**678,978**	
Expenditure, 1935	**585,574**	
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure		**93,404**
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1935		**194,878**

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were :—

	Revenue. £	*Expenditure.* £
1931	**884,153**	**884,008**
1932	**872,469**	**831,921**
1933	**655,529**	**691,686**
1934	**598,839**	**603,208**
1935	**678,978**	**585,574**

Note.—The figures for 1932 and 1933 respectively include receipts and payments of £175,000 and £73,500 on account of a loan from the Colonial Development Fund to the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited. The figure of Revenue for 1934 includes the sum of £29,928 transferred from the Reserve Fund.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1935, was £1,718,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £423,501.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1935, amounted to £363,047 made up as follows:—

	£
Investments	**172,684**
Stores	**15,333**
Loans	**26,389**
Advances	**38,145**
Cash	**110,496**

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1935 were:—

	£
Customs	**441,178**
Port, Harbour and Light	**14,391**
Licences and Internal Revenue	**33,240**
Taxes	**92,936**

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. (Preferential) and 30 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an *ad valorem* duty is levied of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 40 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are: cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d. per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey ¾d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 1½d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, 1¼d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2½d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); fish—dried, salted, smoked or pickled, not in tins, jars or bottles, 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 5s. per 100 lb. (General); flour, 1s. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 2s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and

16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 0s. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, free (Preferential) and 4s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 4½d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 5½d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil, 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 1s. per imperial gallon (General); onions and potatoes, ¼d. per lb. (Preferential) and ½ per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. 9d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk piece goods, 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 2d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 6d. per lb. (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 6s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) to 8s. 3d. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, £1 a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 1s. 3d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wine, spirits, kerosene, tobacco, arms and ammunition and gunpowder are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1935 amounted to £901.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows :—

> Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.
>
> Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House Tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £4.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—No funds were voted either for revision or further reproduction of the Sheets of the 1/62,500 survey of the Protectorate. This survey was commenced in 1925 and completed in 1930 but only 41 per cent. of the Sheets have been published.

Numerous sun-print copies of the unpublished Sheets were supplied to Government Departments and Mining Companies.

Geological Survey.—Detailed geological mapping of the gold and diamond areas was continued during the year, and a reconnaissance traverse was carried out in the Karene and Koinadugu Districts. Owing to shortage of European staff the Officer-in-charge of the Geological Survey had to take charge of the office of the Mines Section on several occasions during the year.

Cadastral Branch.—Seventy-three mining surveys were executed during the year, the revenue derived therefrom amounting to £2,007. Two hundred and ninety-three mining applications were received, the plans examined and reports rendered. The Drawing Office prepared 403 plans and tracings and 210 sunprints. In addition 115 hand-tinted sunprints were supplied to Government Departments and prospectors.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government Departments during the year amounted to £59. Sale of maps to the Public realised £98.

Imperial Institute—Public Exhibition Galleries.

The Sierra Leone Court was closed for redecoration during the latter half of 1935. It has been transferred to a site nearer the west end of the Gallery in order to allow of a more geographical arrangement of the Courts in the Exhibition Galleries.

New exhibits received during the year comprise samples of iron ore from the Marampa iron mines, together with a series of photographs illustrating the mining, transporting, and loading of iron ore at Marampa and Pepel.

A sample of piassava from the inland swamps of the Protectorate was examined as to quality and value as compared with Prime Sherbro, Sulima and Opobo piassavas. The sample was of mixed character, but it possessed better resiliency and strength than piassava of the Sherbro and Sulima types, and was much darker. It was considered to be of saleable quality and was valued at a price above that of Sulima piassava.

An enquirer interested in the canning industry was furnished with observations in connection with a proposal to establish a fruit canning industry in Sierra Leone. Another enquirer who was investigating native diets and the chemical composition of West African food products in relation to the effects of these foods on the health and habits of the natives, was also furnished with information on the subject.

Statements dealing with the characters, properties and uses, and the results of mechanical tests were prepared in regard to the utilization of certain Sierra Leone timbers for local construction work. Observations were also furnished to the Colonial Office regarding the development of an export trade in bees-wax. Information was given to various enquirers regarding iron ore, platiniferous ilmenite and gold.

The statistical charts and graphs and printed descriptive labels have been revised and brought up to date.

Lectures on Sierra Leone and its products have been given to school parties by the Guide Lecturers and specimens of Sierra Leone products have been distributed to school museums in the Provinces.

The public attendance in the Galleries during the year was 626,246, including 2,871 conducted parties from schools.

APPENDIX

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1. and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.	£	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements; Annual Subscription, inland ...	1	5	0
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements; Annual Subscription, Overseas ...	1	10	0

	For current or previous year. s.	d.	*For any prior year.* s.	d.
Royal Gazette, single copies, inclusive of "*Special Supplements*" only...		6	1	0
Trade Supplement (postage 1d. extra) ...		3		6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, &c., not exceeding—				
8 pages ...		4		8
9–16 „ ...		6	1	0
17–32 „ ...		9	1	6
33–48 „ ...	1	3	2	6
49–64 „ ...	1	6	3	0
65–96 „ ...	2	0	4	0
Exceeding 96 pages ...	2	6	5	0

Including postage.

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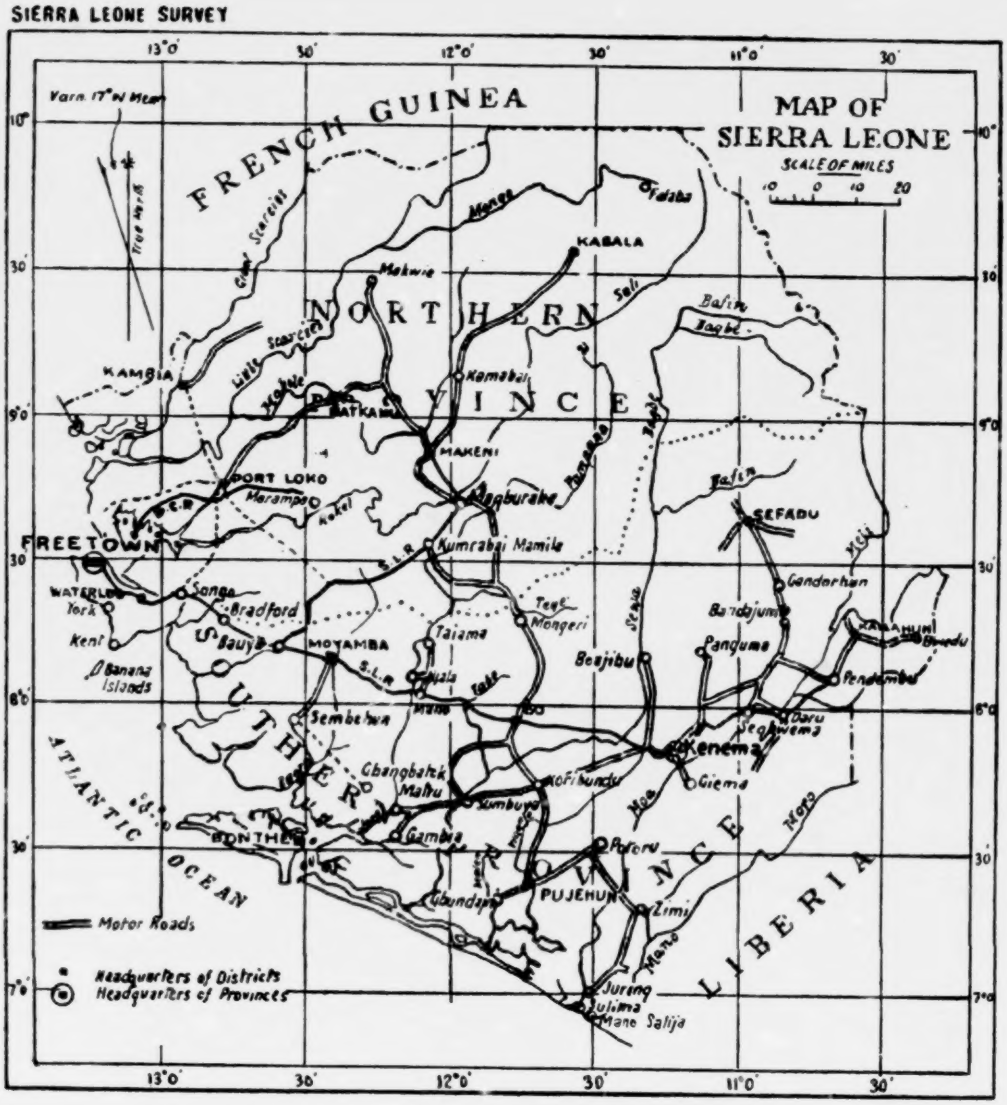
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MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
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NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Yidaba
KABALA
Mongo
Sali
Makwie
Great Scarcies
Little Scarcies
KAMBIA
Kamabai
BATKANU
MAKENI
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PORT LOKO
Marampa
Rokel
Magburaka
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NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province have now been transferred from Magburaka to Freetown.

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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE, 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or " orchard bush " country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced towards the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly " Harmattan " wind usually blows at intervals during the December—February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed the Harmattan carries down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average minimum and maximum may be placed at 74° and 87° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level. July and August are as a rule the wettest months.

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the "Liberated Africans" who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely, the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is composed within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown.

(2) The Headquarters Judicial District.

(3) The Sherbro Judicial District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokeli River.

This District which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioner of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

Sherbro Judicial District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Islands, York Island, and the four following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters Judicial District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years it was, for political purposes, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;

(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and

(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each district is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of adminstrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka

Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and distinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any " palaver " which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax, and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 was 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives ...	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics...	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census was 1,672,058, of which 796,392 were males and 875,666 were females, and consisted of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate was 231, of which 173 were males and 58 were females. Of this total 142 were British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which were included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate was 772—577 males and 195 females. These included 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate numbered 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These included Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans numbered 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case at the 1931 census.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population was as follows:—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population				1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1936, 246 Syrians entered and 142 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,474 immigrants and 2,106 emigrants. The total numbers of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects were 175 and 161 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for births and deaths for the Colony for 1936 are as follows:—

(*a*) Births—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
1,346	1,191	2,537	24·5

The birth-rate shown is probably too low as registration is not compulsory in every place outside Freetown.

(*b*) Deaths—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
1,397	1,093	2,490	24·0

The figures for the Protectorate as regards (*a*) and (*b*) are unreliable, as registration is not compulsory.

Infantile Mortality.—The following are the figures for infantile mortality for the Colony for 1936:—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000 live-births.*
389	255	584	230

The rate shown of mortality per 1,000 live births is probably too high owing to the cause stated under (*a*) above, namely that many births are not recorded.

The last decennial census (1931) showed the population of the Colony to be 96,422.

The estimated population for Freetown at mid-year 1936 is 62,314, that for the Colony exclusive of Freetown 41,064.

The population of the Protectorate was recorded as 1,672,057 in 1931.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1936 are:—

	Freetown.	*Village areas. (Colony).*	*Headquarters District. (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Christian	136	33	13	6	38	226
Civil	1	—	—	—	1	2
Mohammedan ...	26	3	—	—	—	29
Totals ...	163	36	13	6	39	257

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate. There is no registration of marriage by " Native Custom."

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

The figures, with the following exceptions, remain substantially the same.

Yaws and chronic rheumatism show an appreciable increase, due no doubt to the facilities offered for treatment. The latter affection is frequently a sequela of the former. Cases of wounds show a considerable increase, due probably to increased mining activities, as indicated in the last report.

The figures quoted refer only to cases treated at Government institutions and do not include Mission dispensaries and hospitals.

A comparative table for 1935 and 1936 is appended.

Disease.	*1935.*	*1936.*
Malaria	7,718	7,942
Yaws	6,539	8,202
Acute Rheumatism	—	2
Chronic Rheumatism	7,642	10,671
Hemiplegia	110	137
Conjunctivitis	903	1,075
Affections of the ear	940	1,149
Haemorrhoids	96	102
Lymphadenitis (bubo non-specific)	620	664
Coryza	1,100	1,146
Acute Bronchitis	6,905	7,342
Chronic Bronchitis	5,301	5,542
Asthma	202	245
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,627	1,916
Gastritis	440	502
Dyspepsia	3,827	4,420
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,434	1,716
Ankylostomiasis	172	405
Hernia	924	1,104
Constipation	8,334	9,701
Acute Nephritis	82	105
Schistosomiasis	65	98
Epididymitis	40	70
Orchitis	237	249
Hydrocele	262	380
Abcess	500	774
Scabies	1,296	1,742
Eczema	230	327
Osteitis	274	355
Arthritis	1,624	1,800
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	745	1,205
Fracture	218	238
Other external injuries	5,132	4,639
Asthenia	951	895
Syphilis	566	769
Gonorrhoea	2,526	2,755
Avitaminosis	1,311	909

Mortality.

The figures for Freetown are fairly accurate, as the Medical Department controls the burial of deceased persons, and it may be said that the majority of deaths from other causes come to be notified in the Registrar's office. As has been stated, outside Freetown the figures are indicative only, as, although facilities exist for registration, the figures are dependent on the co-operation of the population.

Figures for the Protectorate are at present too unreliable for quotation, as the registration is largely optional.

Principal Causes of Deaths—1936.

The causes are as stated below, and are as recorded by the Registrar for Freetown. The total amounts to 1,297, and includes Cline Town.

Causes.	*Freetown (including Cline Town), 1,297.* *Number.*	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	213	16·4
Malaria	152	11·7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	88	6·8
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	72	5·6
Senility	62	4·5
Valvular disease	43	3·3
Prematurity	36	2·7
Nephritis	36	2·7
Strangulated Hernia	27	2·1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	23	1·7
Convulsions	10	·7
Hemiplegia	9	·7

The number of deaths registered on medical certificate was 382, comprising 29·4 of the deaths registered.

The causes of death for the rest of the Colony are not available, the figures being unreliable owing to the absence of a Medical Officer or Dispenser in the majority of the registration areas.

Provision for Treatment.

Government hospital facilities consist of the Connaught Hospital, Freetown, and the Government Hospital in Bonthe.

A comparison of the number of cases treated at these institutions in 1935 and 1936 is shown below. The figures for the Connaught Hospital remain substantially the same, those for Bonthe Hospital show an appreciable increase both in in-patients and out-patients.

	1935.	*1936.*
Connaught Hospital:—		
In-patients	2,672	2,658
Out-patients—new cases	18,635	18,193
Subsequent attendances	135,094	136,896
Operations	2,246	2,100
Bonthe Hospital:—		
In-patients	371	460
Out-patients—new cases	2,983	3,884
Subsequent attendances	13,670	11,589

PROTECTORATE.

Hospitals.—Since the last report a new Protectorate type hospital has been completed at Port Loko. Otherwise the hospitals remain as formerly.

The figures for the Government hospital at Bo show a small decrease in the number of inpatients and an increase in the number of out-patients treated as compared with those for 1935.

The figures for the Government hospital at Makeni show a very marked increase in all three classes of patients.

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Southern Province :—

	1935.	*1936.*
In-patients	445	424
Out-patients—new cases	2,962	3,586
Subsequent attendances	18,561	16,328

Protectorate Hospital, Makeni, Northern Province :—

In-patients	241	298
Out-patients—new cases	2,563	4,583
Subsequent attendances	9,951	14,628

Dispensaries.—New Government dispensaries have been inaugurated at Koidu in the Kono district and at Mabonto in the Tonkolili district.

Midwives.—The position remains the same.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The position remains the same.

	Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1935.	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Ante-natal attendances	5,981	5,510	981	763
Labour cases admitted	554	607	42	23
Health visits	11,985	10,189	3,551	5,001
Infant Welfare clinic attendances ...	12,056	13,120	4,414	3,407

Sanitation.

The occurrence of smallpox shows a very marked decrease in the Colony during the period under consideration.

In the Protectorate a marked diminution is also apparent, though, in the Northern Province, Karene, and, in the Southern Province, Kailahun and Kenema, there was an increase in the incidence of the disease, but not of a significant nature.

The table below gives the figures for the Colony and Protectorate during 1936.

Area.	*Number of cases discovered.*	*Number of Deaths.*	*Number of Vaccinations.*
Colony Districts :—			
Freetown	29	8	8,448
Headquarters Judicial ...	26	1	1,501
Sherbro	4	—	3,114
Protectorate Districts :—			
Northern Province—			
Port Loko	5	—	3,033
Karene	57	13	806
Bombali	39	—	1,736
Tonkolili	6	—	—
Koinadugu...	—	—	191
Southern Province—			
Kailahun	57	6	1,951
Kenema	15	1	1,766
Bo	14	—	3,657
Moyamba	103	16	2,115
Pujehun	9	1	1,764
Bonthe	27	5	—
	391	51	30,082

Of the twenty-nine cases shown above against Freetown, twelve were imported.

Sanitation in general maintains a steady progress.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses with concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm-tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or of native timber boarding, and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables houseowners and prospective houseowners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately thirty new houses have been erected at a cost of about £11,958.

In addition, a building scheme has been introduced by a firm of timber merchants in Freetown. Under this scheme, prospective owners of the type of house property costing from £250 to £600 can erect buildings under the supervision of the firm both expeditiously and inexpensively, payment being made by an initial small deposit followed by monthly instalments.

In connexion with this scheme, Government has laid out and has leased to the firm a small model residential area which enables intending houseowners to obtain (by assignment from the firm) leases of building plots at a moderate ground rent and with an option to purchase the freehold within 20 years.

Seven houses have now been completed on this area.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm-tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities in Sierra Leone are gold, diamonds, iron, platinum, and probably chromite and ilmenite. The first four were mined during the year and an interest has also been taken in chromite.

Gold.—It is likely that the production of alluvial gold reached its peak during 1936. The output for the year reached 40,722 ounces of an estimated value of £266,217 which is an advance on the previous year's record of 32,947 ounces.

Gold has as yet only been produced from alluvial sources, but prospecting for lode has been active and at any rate at Pujehun the prospects are more than promising.

Attention has recently turned to the possibility of dredging in the bigger rivers, and an amount of work has been done in this connection.

Applications for mining ground have increased slightly during the year.

No new areas have been discovered but mining continues actively in the districts previously worked—namely Tonkolili (lately parts of Koinadugu and Bombali) and Karene in the Northern Province, and Bo, Kailahun and Kono in the Southern Province.

Diamonds.—This industry continues in a very satisfactory state. The output for the year is 616,200 carats which considerably exceeds that for 1935 which was 295,483 carats.

The diamonds are of gem quality and the reserves are considerable. As a result the future prospects are indeed bright.

Diamonds are being mined in the Kono District.

Iron Ore.—There are now indications of great prosperity for the iron and steel trade so that it is not surprising to find an increased output. The output is 566,595 tons which shows a big increase over last year when the production was 433,540 tons. The company concerned are erecting a concentration plant at Marampa for dealing with powder ore.

A survey for the proposed extension of the railway from Marampa to the Tonkolili area was completed some time ago, but the building has not yet commenced and it may be some time before the enormous Tonkolili deposits are exploited.

Platinum.—The United Africa Company, Limited, having worked out their areas, have now ceased mining. They were easily the largest producers, so the output has fallen considerably. A few individuals are engaged in a small way—a slight impetus having been given to them owing to the increased price. The output only amounts to 482 ounces against 750 ounces for last year. It is being mined in the Colony.

Chromite.—A special exclusive prospecting licence has been granted in respect of this mineral and tests are being carried out. It is too early yet to give any idea of the prospects. The chromite deposit is in the Kenema District.

Labour.—Labour is generally plentiful and the number employed has increased. There is an occasional shortage during the planting season and a certain number have moved over to French Guinea from the Northern Province as gold has recently been discovered near the Sierra Leone—French Guinea boundary.

Agricultural Produce.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The year 1936 was not a good year for rice. During the early months some 204 tons of rice (from the 1935 crop) were exported to Bathurst, Gambia, but bad " burns," due to early rains, limited the area cultivated and the upland crop was short in many places. Owing to the prolonged rains, the dry land crop was on the whole rather over a month late. This lateness of the crop caused some shortness during August to September. The wet land rice was at least up to the normal and probably a shade better. There has been a switch over of a large number of men from farming to mining (these are the only two industries in the Colony), and the number of men employed in mining reached 14,000 in 1936, thereby creating an internal market for some 3,000 to 4,000 tons of rice, a market which did not exist previously to the last two or three years. The export of rice which had been confidently expected, and which was gradually growing up, can no longer be anticipated until the internal markets, recently created by the rapid expansion of mining activities, are fully supplied.

Considerable progress was made in the study and distribution of good types of rice in the Scarcies area and some 2,000 bushels of a variety known as G.E.B.24 were harvested in January and distributed during May for cultivation. By December it was obvious that 15,000 to 20,000 bushels of this new variety would reach the market in 1937.

A mill was erected and started operating in March. Very satisfactory results were obtained and the mill-cleaned rice sold at a premium over hand-cleaned rice. A test milling of G.E.B.24 showed that this rice gave a white product which would probably be suitable for export.

Cassava.—Work on the eradication of "mosaic" disease has been continued but progress is necessarily slow.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—84,578 tons of kernels valued at £810,238 were exported in 1936. This is a record for the Colony, and the increase in value of the kernels exported was at once reflected in the increased customs returns. The increase in the value of kernels undoubtedly had a stimulating effect on production.

Ginger.—1,641 tons of ginger valued at £58,672 was exported. The improvement in price was very welcome and the crop was average in amount.

Piassava.—The export of piassava (3,558 tons) was the second highest yet reached, and there was a small improvement in price. The quality of both Sherbro and Sulima fibre was maintained, and Sherbro now produces the highest priced piassava on the West Coast.

Kola.—Some small improvement was shown in the kola trade. 2,301 tons valued at £41,539 were exported but the price still remains disappointingly low.

Cocoa.—There has been a gradual increase in this industry and in 1936 a record export of 301 tons was reached. This industry is again receiving the attention of the agricultural department.

Coffee.—A small amount of coffee is grown for local consumption and for export. So far only negligible quantities have been exported, but the native cultivator is interested in this crop and shows signs of increasing production.

Livestock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the livestock of this country. Cattle-farming is carried out on a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country, and pigs to a small extent. There are a few horses, the majority of which also come from French territory. The value of the export in hides amounted to £1,821 in 1936.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1936 amounted to £1,346,715 as compared with £1,214,315 in 1935, being an increase of £132,400.

The following table shows the value of imports by classes during the years 1935 and 1936:—

	1935.	*1936.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	209,551	231,864	22,313	—
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	72,909	67,526	—	5,383
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	816,438	965,374	148,936	—
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	27,658	33,626	5,968	—
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc....	87,759	48,325	—	39,434
Totals	1,214,315	1,346,715	177,217	44,817

Nett increase ... £132,400.

Compared with 1935 there were increases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I—" Food " by £11,562, " Drink " by £6,353, and " Tobacco " (mainly unmanufactured) by £4,398.

Commercial and Government coal was mainly responsible for the decrease in Class II, the value being £8,386 less than the 1935 imports.

With few exceptions all items under Class III recorded an increase, particularly cotton piecegoods (£29,781).

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piecegoods, including velveteen, for the years 1932 to 1936:—

Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Duty obtained.*
	Sq. yds.	£	£
1932	11,169,367	262,959	48,651
1933	6,129,891	124,702	24,047
1934	5,638,488	107,740	26,524
1935	14,207,762	297,455	72,593
1936	14,408,232	328,107	76,320

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1935 and 1936:—

	Value. 1935. £	*Percentage. 1935.*	*Value. 1936.* £	*Percentage. 1936.*
United Kingdom	852,124	70·17	942,746	70·00
British West African Possessions	34,837	2·87	4,882	0·36
British Possessions (other) ...	133,605	11·02	187,327	13·91
France	13,159	1·08	12,829	0·95
Germany	31,749	2·61	35,498	2·64
Netherlands	8,448	0·70	9,553	0·71
United States of America ...	74,293	6·11	66,833	4·96
Japan	9,258	0·76	19,754	1·47
Foreign West African Possessions	5,034	0·41	3,996	0·30
Other European Countries ...	41,016	3·38	46,592	3·46
Other Countries	10,792	0·89	16,705	1·24
Totals	£1,214,315	100·00	£1,346,715	100·00

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year 1936 amounted to £2,376,965 (domestic exports being £2,224,918 and non-domestic £152,047).

The following table shows the value of exports by classes during the years 1935 and 1936:—

	1935. £	*1936.* £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Class I— Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	46,982	69,601	22,619	—
Class II— Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured ...	1,283,271	1,900,088	616,817	—
Class III— Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	14,554	17,617	3,063	—
Class IV— Animals not for food ...	629	500	—	129
Class V— Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes	238,398	389,159	150,761	—
Totals	£1,583,834	2,376,965	793,260	129

The following table is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1935 and 1936:—

		1935.		*1936.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£
Benniseed	tons	370	3,122	409	4,991
Cocoa, raw	,,	164	2,043	301	5,542
Diamonds	value	—	402,067	—	725,272
Ginger	cwt.	30,121	36,918	32,831	58,673
Hides (cattle) tanned ...	lb.	13,905	770	21,516	1,197
Kola nuts	cwt.	37,183	39,415	46,017	41,539
Palm Kernels	tons	78,019	583,645	84,578	810,238
Palm Oil	,,	2,892	35,814	1,223	16,313
Peppers	lb.	40,385	665	64,812	1,354
Piassava	tons	3,438	30,998	3,558	32,777
Platinum	oz.	556	3,871	375	3,184
Rice	tons	1,024	6,183	208	1,418
Gold	oz.	33,216	225,423	38,804	256,139
Gum Copal	tons	—	—	—	—
Iron Ore	value	—	178,848	—	262,143

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1935 and 1936:—

Country.	*Value.* *1935.*	*Percentage.* *1935.*	*Value.* *1936.*	*Percentage.* *1936.*
	£		£	
United Kingdom	1,078,923	68·12	1,469,276	61·81
British West African Possessions	48,822	3·08	175,847	7·40
British Possessions (other) ...	5,861	0·37	9,493	·40
France	1,628	0·10	6,966	·29
Germany	179,074	11·31	353,109	14·86
Netherlands	124,589	7·87	264,646	11·14
United States of America ...	39,110	2·46	23,748	1·00
Japan	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions	9,122	0·58	10,750	·45
Other European Countries ...	90,721	5·73	58,575	2·46
Other Countries	5,984	0·38	4,555	·19
Totals	£1,583,834	100·00	£2,376,965	100·00

Palm Kernels.—Eighty-four thousand five hundred and seventy-eight tons, or 6,559 tons in excess of 1935, were shipped. The Home market price advanced from £12 10s. in January to £17 15s. in December and averaged throughout the year £11 16s. 8d. as compared with £9 15s. 4d. in 1935.

Germany purchased 33,476 tons, an increase on the figure of 1935 of 14,781 tons. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 25,657 tons, or a decrease of 9,932 tons. Exports to Netherlands rose from 14,711 to 21,507 tons.

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years:—

Year.	*Quantity.* Tons.	*Value.* £
1932	77,162	687,477
1933	64,083	472,824
1934	68,655	360,780
1935	78,019	583,645
1936	84,578	810,238

State of Trade.

The following comparative table summarizes the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years:—

Year.	*Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).*	*Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).*	*Net Imports.*	*Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.*	*Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.*	*Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.*	*Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1932	1,219,558	20,749	1,198,839	878,424	320,415	—	452,880	3,286,299
1933	817,108	18,306	798,802	753,930	44,872	—	371,686	3,509,799
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310
1935	1,126,556	14,043	1,112,513	1,556,816	—	444,303	441,966	4,794,868
1936	1,298,390	19,027	1,279,363	2,224,918	—	945,555	491,694	4,979,189

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (*Public Works*).—In Freetown during 1936, Public Works artisans were paid from 2s. to 5s. 9d. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. a day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 6d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. to 4s. 6d. for journeymen.

Labourers (*Public Works*).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was from 10d. to 1s. 3d. a day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 1s. 9d.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 6d. to 10d., while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 8d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the only staple food, was obtainable at from 6s. to 10s. a bushel.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Education is still governed by the Ordinance of 1929 and the Schedule of Rules for the Colony (1929) and the Protectorate (1930).

In the Colony the Protestant infant and primary schools are conducted by school committees as the result of the amalgamation of denominational schools. Of these there are 42. There are also two Government, three Roman Catholic and three Mohammedan schools. The managers of these schools, i.e., the owners of the school buildings or their representatives, are theoretically responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, but Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment. All school fees are paid into Government revenue. There are at present 50 schools of this type in the Colony, with 7,362 pupils on their rolls and an average attendance of 5,481.

There is one Government secondary school for boys in the Colony and three assisted schools, which receive capitation and equipment grants; grants are also paid to qualified teachers. There are also four assisted girls secondary schools. In these schools there are on the rolls:—

Boys.—70 primary, 128 preparatory and 221 secondary pupils.

Girls.—351 primary, 94 preparatory and 162 secondary pupils.

There are also two assisted schools in the Colony which provide vocational training—The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School (wood-working) for boys, and the A.M.E. Girls Industrial School (Domestic Science). Courses in carpentry and printing form part of the curriculum at the Albert Academy, one of the assisted boys' secondary schools.

Apart from assisted schools there are two unassisted boys' secondary schools, a preparatory girls' school, and a number of unassisted primary schools.

Domestic science forms an important part of the curriculum in the education of girls. Special examinations are held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas awarded to successful students. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian (Mission) Hospital.

There is a scheme whereby a number of scholarships are awarded to enable boys and girls from primary schools to attend approved secondary schools.

Higher education in Arts and Theology is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University.

Government finances schemes for the training of male teachers in connection with Fourah Bay College and for the training of female teachers at the Women Teachers' Training College, Wilberforce.

An Agricultural Institute at Mabang, managed by the Trustees of the S. B. Thomas Bequest, provides training in agriculture for a limited number of youths from the Colony.

In the Protectorate there are three Government schools; there are also 83 assisted mission schools, which are eligible for capitation, building and equipment grants; teachers' salaries being paid by the missions and supplemented in the case of qualified teachers only by grants from Government. These schools are attended by 7,175 pupils, consisting of 5,338 boys and 1,837 girls.

There is no school in the Protectorate covering the complete secondary course, but the Bo Government School and two or three mission schools have classes of secondary grade.

The Union College at Bunumbu trains youths, who combine the roles of teachers and evangelists.

There is also an assisted (Catholic) Industrial School at Mobe, which gives instruction in the trades of boat-building and wood and metal working.

A notable development in Freetown is the quality of the singing in schools. A special music master teaches singing on correct lines, and very good results have been achieved. An annual singing competition is held, at which the greatest keenness is displayed.

Instruction in physical training is supervised by an officer specifically appointed for the purpose. His activities at present are limited to the schools and training colleges in Freetown and the vicinity.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick and the burial of deceased destitute persons remained the same during 1936 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about five miles from Freetown.

X.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads, but there is a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo

(20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road three miles in length from Hill Station affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 50 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 31½ miles are motorable. The principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface-water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—The total mileage of maintained roads in the Protectorate is 807¾. The roads are surfaced with laterite and are for the greater part 16 feet wide.

The majority of the bridges are built with concrete abutments and piers, and steel joists carrying a timber deck, but there still remains a number of timber beam and trestle bridges which are being reconstructed to a standard type, with a 9 feet wide deck, as their condition requires and funds permit. In addition to the above Government-maintained roads, there are chiefs' roads, constructed and maintained by the tribal authorities concerned, which are not usually open to heavy motor vehicles and are sometimes not available for motor traffic in the wet season.

Ferries are used in cases where the width of rivers has rendered the construction of bridges financially impracticable. There are fifteen such ferries in the Protectorate, the pontoons being constructed of timber with one exception which has a steel pontoon. The pontoons are connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled traveller moving on a steel cable-way which is slung between towers on the banks. The pontoon is impelled across the river partly by the action of the current and partly by the boat crew hauling on a light steel hand-line also slung between the banks.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1936 was 311 miles, with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 ins.

Capital expenditure on the railway to the 31st December, 1936, was £1,428,244.

The total revenue of the railway was £200,243, which shows an increase of £20,238 over the figure for the previous year. The revenue includes £1,071 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure other than capital for the year was £187,601, which shows an increase of £1,046 as compared with 1935. This total includes £57,693 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Working expenditure amounted to £129,908 and gross receipts £200,243.

Passenger journeys in the year were 540,990, an increase of 90,283 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 76,887 against 71,628 in 1935.

	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88	8 11·03	9 7·69	10 3·16
Working expenses per train mile	*5 1·09	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98	7 8·82	6 10·82	6 7·90
Passengers carried ...	438,388	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123	449,513	540,990
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024	58,866	59,938	71,628	76,887

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of five miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, on the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1936 consisted of five passenger vehicles and two lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 262,624 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,164.

The staff employed was:—

European	1
Africans	19
Total	20

Postal Business.

There was considerable increase in postal business during 1936. Postal business was conducted from 14 post offices and 53 postal agencies, money-order business from 23, and postal-order business from 55 offices.

The total revenue collected was £24,989 as against £22,331 in the previous year. Of this amount, £16,661 was derived from direct postal revenue, £6,639 from Customs duty on parcels, and £1,689 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds, including 89,540 registered articles, dealt with during the year was 2,209,400, as compared with 2,003,800 in 1935. Money-order transactions increased from 3,728 (value £20,922) in 1935 to 3,843 (value £22,103) in 1936.

The total number of postal-orders issued during the year was 57,726 valued at £35,448, and the number of postal-orders paid was 46,836 valued at £29,974, as compared with the previous year, viz., orders issued 50,381 valued at £30,748, orders paid 41,523 valued at £26,110.

The parcel post transactions showed an increase, 36,516 parcels being handled as against 32,180 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (with Great Britain only) 10,526 parcels were received (value £19,104) as compared with 8,512 (value £14,452) in 1935.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown) with transmitting stations at Bauya and Bo; this system is connected up by branches with most of the district headquarters in the Protectorate. The total mileage is 1,099¼, plus the railway traffic control line of 455 miles.

Telephones.

The only service is that in Freetown and district, maintained by the Railway Department. The total mileage is 394¼.

Broadcast Relay Service.

The Broadcast Service was inaugurated in May, 1934, and is owned and controlled by Government.

It is a relay service which operates on the rediffusion principle. The equipment, consisting of rectifying apparatus, two short-wave battery operated receivers and five power amplifiers, together with studio and gramophone equipment, is of the latest design. The power amplifiers are capable of giving a combined undistorted output of 300 watts.

Directional reflector aerials are used and are erected 500 ft. above sea level.

The station relays as a standard programme the whole of Transmissions II and IV in the Empire programme from Daventry on wavelengths of 13, 16, 19, 25 and 31 metres. All transmissions from Daventry are receivable at good signal strength in normal circumstances.

The number of subscribers up to date is over 720.

Cables and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless Limited maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and American broadcasting on suitable short-wavelengths.

Shipping.

There was an increase of eight in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 88,389. Of a total of 2,485,750 tons entered, 66·58 per cent. was British, 8·91 German, 3·13 Italian, 5·73 French, 6·25 American and 5·72 Netherlands.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports:—

STEAMSHIP SERVICES, 1936.

Line.	*Destination.*	*Passenger or Cargo.*	*Frequency of Calls.*	*Mail contract.*	*Other feature of the contract, and other remarks.*
Elder Dempster Lines, Limited, Liverpool.	Liverpool ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks) plus supplementary end of summer.	Liverpool and West African Colonies	Colony pays a proportion of the subsidy for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and West African Colonies.
„ „ „	„ ...	Cargo	18 (1 each 2 weeks).		Cargo vessels also have passenger accommodation usually for 12.
„ „ „	London	„	13 (one each 4 weeks).		
„ „ „	Continent ...	„	18 (1 each 3 weeks).		Extra services to United Kingdom, Continent and United States of America put in as inducement offered.
„ „ „	New York ...	„	13 (one each 4 weeks).		Passenger services also accept cargo at this port.
„ „ „	Canada—South Africa.	„	12 (1 monthly)		
„ „ „	Coast Ports ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		
„ „ „	„ ...	Cargo	52 (1 each week)		
„ „ „	Hull	„	1 every 4 weeks.		
United Africa Company Steamers	Liverpool and West African ports.	2nd Class cargo boats	Twice monthly.		
Navigazione Libera Triestina (Italian Line).	Genoa	2nd Class cargo boats.	Once a month.		
Sierra Leone Development Co....	United Kingdom	Iron Ore	About once every 6 weeks.		
American West African Line, Inc., New York.	New York ...	Passenger and cargo	18 round voyages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.	Mail contract with U.S. Government outwards.	

STEAMSHIP SERVICES, 1936.—*Continued.*

Line.	*Destination.*	*Passenger or Cargo.*	*Frequency of Calls.*	*Mail contract.*	*Other feature of the contract, and other remarks.*
American West African Line, Inc., New York—*cont.*	U.S. Gulf ports ...	Passenger and cargo	5 round voyages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.	Mail contract with U.S. Government outwards.	
Holland West-Afrika Lijn, Amsterdam	Le Havre, Amsterdam and Hamburg.	Passenger	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	Mail contract with Netherlands Government.	
,, ,, ,,	Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Hamburg.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).		
,, ,, ,,	Coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).		
Woermann Linie	Southampton, Boulogne s/mer, Hamburg and Continental ports.	Passenger	2 monthly.	Mail contract with Spanish Government.	
,, ,, ...	Hamburg and Continental ports.	Cargo	1 monthly.	,, ,,	
,, ,, ...	Coast ports ...	Passenger	1 monthly.	,, ,,	
,, ,, ...	Coast ports ...	Cargo	1 monthly.	,, ,,	
Cie. Generale de Navigation a vapeur (Cie. Fabre), and Cie. Marseilles de Navigation a Vapeur (Cie. Fraissinet) combined services.	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	2 monthly (1 Homeward and 1 outward).	Mail contract with the Sierra Leone Government.	
,, ,, ,,	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	1 every 3 weeks (average).		
Societe Navale de l'ouest Chargeurs Reunis.	Coast ports ...	Cargo (combined services).	1 monthly (average).		

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes, and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about four tons. During recent years motor launches have come into use and this form of water transport appears to be growing increasingly popular with the natives.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony, viz., Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima, and Mano Salija.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with nineteen agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1936, was £74,229.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During 1936 the whole length of Samba Water, a stream running from Tower Hill to Joaque bridge was canalized and the upper section of Wellington Street drained on either side and the road made up to a uniform width and camber. The finished work is functioning satisfactorily.

New Passenger Jetty.—The erection of the new passenger jetty was completed in September and was used for the first time upon the return from leave of His Excellency Sir Henry Moore on 10th October. It is a great convenience to passengers embarking and disembarking.

New Hospital, Port Loko.—A complete hospital unit was constructed at Port Loko out of Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund and provides an out-patients' block with dispensary and operating theatre, a ward block for twelve patients, a patients' waiting shelter combined with garage for Medical Officer's car, a kitchen and a hospital store, a living room, sanitary accommodation for the hospital orderly, a mortuary, and dispenser's quarters complete with usual offices. All the above buildings were constructed of concrete blocks and present a workmanlike finish. Two rain-water tanks each of 3,200 gallons capacity were erected adjacent to the hospital.

Rice Mill.—The rice mill was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore, on 2nd May, 1937.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power decreasing to 2d. according to consumption. In certain cases special tariffs have been approved for other than private consumers, each having a favourable decreasing rate of charge in a manner similar to that for users of domestic appliances. Such special tariffs are based upon the various different average consumptions of current of each consumer.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court* (*Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap*. 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows:—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No*. 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court."

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No*. 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " The District Court."

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No*. 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than

persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as " Joint Judges " to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision in all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, in 1936.

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons discharged.*	*Committed for trial.*
Assault and Battery ...	98	107	84	19	—
Harbour Offences ...	31	41	39	2	—
Stowaways	15	15	11	4	—
Customs Offences ...	35	40	35	5	—
Housebreaking ...	9	3	3	—	—
Burglary	5	2	—	—	2
Larceny	364	406	332	44	9
Larceny from Ship ...	14	17	11	2	—
Public Health Offences	128	141	133	7	—
Shopbreaking	12	9	8	1	—
Larceny from a Person	74	81	63	6	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	3	15	15	—	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence	4	4	4	—	—
Disorderly conduct ...	77	157	141	8	—
Fighting	22	45	41	4	—
Drunk	14	14	14	—	—
Wounding	2	2	—	—	—
Totals	907	1,099	934	102	11

Juveniles.

Larceny	42	42	42	—	—
Assault and Battery ...	4	4	4	—	—
Throwing Stones ...	1	1	1	—	—
Committing Nuisance...	2	2	2	—	—
Unlawful Possession ...	3	3	3	—	—
Acting as a Guide ...	2	2	2	—	—
Totals	54	54	54	—	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1936.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number of persons imprisoned.*	*Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.*	*Number of persons condemned.*	*Number of persons discharged.*
Bombali ...	1	—	—	—	1
Karene ...	4	4	—	—	—
Kenema ...	2	1	—	—	1
Kailahun ...	4	3	—	—	1
Kono ...	4	2	—	1	1
Koinadugu ...	3	—	—	—	2 One died before trial.
Bo	4	4	—	—	—
Moyamba ...	10	4	—	—	5 One died before trial.
Port Loko ...	4	2	—	1	1
Tonkolili ...	5	2	—	—	3
Pujehun ...	7	5	—	—	2
Bonthe ...	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	49	28	—	2	17

Police.

During the year 1936, the strength of the Police Force was increased by one 3rd Class constable.

Prisons.

There are now 12 prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows:—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons; Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni, Bathenu, Tonkolili,

Southern Province, local prisons; Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Masanki, Sefadu.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the years 1935 and 1936 was as follows:—

	1935.	*1936.*
Males	933	904
Females	12	4
Juvenile adults	4	18
Juvenile offenders	14	Nil

The total daily average number in custody was:—

1935.	*1936.*
243	233·727

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the years 1935 and 1936 was:—

	1935.	*1936.*
Males	1,050	1,285
Females	5	4

The daily average number in custody was 179 as against 143 in 1935.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was three, compared with five in 1935.

Industrial.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and planting fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of rice-milling, tailoring, tarpaulin and mattress making, bread-making and carpentry.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1936 were:—

The Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1936,

The Diamond Industry Protection Ordinance, 1936,

The Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance, 1936,

The Counterfeit Currency Ordinance, 1936,

The African Labourers (Employment at Sea) Ordinance, 1936,

The Notaries Public Ordinance, 1936,

The Public Officers Protection Ordinance, 1936,

The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance, 1936.

The Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1936, provides for the first time special measures for the trial and punishment of juvenile offenders in the Colony. The provisions of the Ordinance require the separate sittings of Summary Courts as Juvenile Courts for the general trial of children under 12 years of age, and with their consent of young persons under 16 years of age. The admission of the general public to such Courts is severely restricted as well as the publication of reports of cases in the public Press. Restrictions are also placed on the punishment of children and young persons and no child can be sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Generally speaking the Ordinance introduced all the principal provisions of the English law on this subject as were thought applicable to the needs of the Colony and which were capable of satisfactory administration at the present time.

The Diamond Industry Protection Ordinance, 1936, has been enacted to give protection to the diamond industry. The mining of these highly precious stones attracts to the neighbourhood of the mines persons seeking to take advantage of the employees of the mining company in order to receive stones unlawfully obtained. Such traffic is not easy to detect and this measure is designed to strengthen the hands of the local administration in dealing with this situation in the immediate vicinity of the mines.

The Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance, 1936, repeals and replaces the Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 159), and gives effect to the recommendations of a Committee which had been appointed to examine the Savings Bank Systems in the various Crown Colonies and formulate a scheme for uniform legislation on this subject. The chief recommendations which have been adopted in the measure may be summarized (*inter alia*) as follows: The Ordinance contains a clear statement of ultimate Government liability. It provides that Savings Bank accounts shall be kept distinct from the accounts of any Government Department. Also expenses incurred on Savings Bank business shall be charged against Savings Bank funds. Again the non-liability of Government has been expressly declared. The rule-making power has been considerably extended and many provisions of the repealed Ordinance which were omitted from the new enactment have been more suitably included in the new Savings Bank Rules.

The Counterfeit Currency Ordinance, 1936, gives effect in Sierra Leone to an International Convention signed at Geneva in 1929 for the suppression of counterfeiting currency, by applying certain Imperial Statutes in force in England relating to these matters. It also amends the law relating to the counterfeiting of coins and to forgery. The Imperial Counterfeit Medal Act of 1883 has also been applied. A further important provision has been inserted dealing with enquiries which are made from time to time through the medium of the post by persons who are desirous of obtaining coining tools or counterfeit coin and currency.

The African Labourers (Employment at Sea) Ordinance, 1936, is designed to regulate the engagement of and payment of wages to African labourers employed or engaged locally for service on sea-going vessels while such ships are operating on the West Coast of Africa. This class of labourer had not been provided for under the Employers and Employed Ordinance, 1934. For some years prior to the enactment of this measure, Government had under consideration the methods adopted in the engagement of Kroos and other tribesmen who desired employment as stevedores on board ships. It appeared that the headmen who were engaged by the shipping companies for the purpose of collecting gangs of labourers demanded a contribution from each applicant for employment, and consequently no African labourer could expect or hope to obtain employment unless he offered a substantial consideration out of his future earnings. The headmen were not employees of the shipping companies, but were independent contractors and therefore did not come within the purview of the Prevention of Corruption Ordinance, 1924. This form of extortion must have undoubtedly caused considerable hardship in the past, and it is hoped that this measure which has been designed to suppress any " pecuniary inducements " of this particular nature will have the desired effect. Persons seeking employment are also prohibited in future from offering any reward for obtaining such employment. The Ordinance also directs that all wages must be paid personally to a labourer without any deductions except such as are authorized by the terms of his contract or by law. The wages of a labourer must also be paid in money and not in kind. The Ordinance also prohibits any traffic in the sale of " tickets " which are issued to persons who are accepted for employment on board any ocean-going vessels.

The Notaries Public Ordinance, 1936, provides for the appointment of legal practitioners of a certain standing in the profession to be Notaries Public within the Colony and Protectorate and is based on similar legislation in force in West Africa.

The Public Officers' Protection Ordinance, 1936, was enacted in order to substitute a uniform, improved and simpler mode of procedure for the provisions which appear in some enactments as to the privileges of persons sued in respect of acts done by them in real or supposed conformity with the laws of this country. The measure will generally also secure all persons and bodies administering statutory or other public duties from stale or speculative actions and afford them an adequate opportunity of tendering amends before action and thus avoiding costs.

The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance, 1936, simplifies and cheapens the procedure with regard to the local protection of designs by according to proprietors of designs registered in the United Kingdom under the Patents and Designs Acts, 1907 to 1932, the same rights and privileges in this country as they enjoy in the United Kingdom. It is considered that the automatic protection afforded under this new measure will more adequately safeguard designs against infringement by unscrupulous persons who copy designs.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on the 31st December, 1936, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows:—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1936		194,878
Revenue, 1936	969,668	
Expenditure, 1936	879,370	
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure		90,298
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1936		285,176

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1932	872,469	831,921
1933	655,529	691,686
1934	598,839	603,208
1935	678,978	585,574
1936	969,668	879,370*

* Includes £187,020 transferred to Reserve Funds.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1936, was £1,718,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £474,601.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1936, amounted to £644,701 made up as follows:—

	£
Reserve and surplus Funds invested...	309,512
Other investments	109,147
Stores	15,335
Loans	26,214
Advances	39,427
Cash	145,066

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1936 were:—

	£
Customs	490,787
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse dues ...	16,170
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	40,709
Taxes	194,073

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. (Preferential) and 25 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an *ad valorem* duty is levied of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 40 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are: cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d. per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey ¾d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 1½d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, 1¼d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2½d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); fish—dried, salted, smoked or pickled, not in tins, jars or bottles, 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 5s. per 100 lb. (General); flour, free (Preferential) and 1s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 0s. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, free (Preferential) and 4s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 4½d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 5½d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil, 2d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per imperial gallon (General); onions, free (Preferential) and ¼d. (General); potatoes, ¼d. per lb. (Preferential) and ½d. per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. 9d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk piece-goods, 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 2d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 6d. per lb. (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 6s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) to 8s. 3d. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, £1 a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 1s. 3d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wines, spirits, petroleum products, tobacco, arms and ammunition, gunpowder, West African products (excluding Liberian coffee) and manufactures, potatoes, onions and rice are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1936 amounted to £1,006.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows:—

Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.

Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House Tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £4.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—The topographical survey of the Protectorate on the scale of 1/62,500 was commenced in 1925 and completed in 1930. It comprises 109 sheets; of these, only 45 have been printed and published. All the remaining sheets are now available locally in sunprint form. In connection with mining surveys a certain amount of revision has been done on several sheets and it is hoped that funds and staff will shortly become available to revise the whole area. A gazetteer of the names of all towns and villages in the Protectorate is in course of preparation.

Cadastral Survey.—One hundred and forty-four mining surveys comprising fifteen exclusive prospecting licences, two mining leases, and 127 mining rights were executed during the year. Seven miles of Crown mangrove swamp boundaries were traversed and beaconed. Five additional sheets of the cadastral survey of the Colony were taken up. The town survey of Bo was printed and issued in three sheets on the 1/2,500 scale.

The drawing office prepared 563 plans and tracings and 880 sunprints. In addition 100 sunprints of topographical sheets were supplied to Government departments and to prospectors.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connection with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government departments during the year amounted to £97 14s. 3d. Sale of maps to the public realized £81 10s. 6d. Revenue from mining surveys amounted to £3,017 1s.

Geological Survey.—At the kind invitation of the Government of French West Africa the officer-in-charge of the geological survey spent five interesting and instructive weeks at the beginning of the year visiting the neighbouring colonies of Guinea, Sudan, and Senegal, where he studied the main features of geological interest with special reference to the correlation of the rocks of these countries with those of Sierra Leone. As he was required to act as Chief Inspector of Mines soon after his return to Sierra Leone until his departure on leave at the beginning of July, only a limited amount of geological field work was possible during 1936. Advice was given to the Freetown City Council regarding the augmentation of the water supply of Freetown, and numerous rocks and mineral specimens were identified and reported upon for the mining community.

Imperial Institute—Public Exhibition Galleries.

Following the redecoration of the Exhibition Galleries in the latter part of 1935, the re-installation of the exhibits in the Sierra Leone Court was completed in the early part of this year.

New exhibits include specimens of piassava fibre (Sherbro and Sulima grades) together with dressed and dyed fibre and an example of a piassava broom.

Photographs of cotton cloth weaving in Sierra Leone have been prepared and are on show.

Dioramas of the iron-mining and diamond-mining industries are under construction, and are nearing completion. The cases for these have been constructed of cedar and West African mahogany. The charts and graphs, showing the volume of trade, have been revised in accordance with the latest available figures.

Lectures to school parties have been continued, and films of West Africa have been shown in the cinema to schools and the general public.

The distribution of samples of products to applicants under the school specimen scheme has been continued.

During the year, the Institute examined a sample of tobacco representing a type of leaf grown in considerable quantities in the northern chiefdoms of Sierra Leone, submitted by the Department of Agriculture in order to ascertain its value as a source of nicotine for insecticidal purposes. On examination it was found to contain 3·12 per cent of nicotine (expressed on the moisture-free material), a figure comparing favourably with that (0·5 to 3·0 per cent.) normally contained in waste tobacco commonly employed by insecticide manufacturers in the United Kingdom. In view however of the large quantities of such waste which are available, it did not appear likely that it would be remunerative to produce the tobacco for shipment.

The Imperial Institute also carried out investigations and reported on samples of piassava, cashew nuts, chillies, and gorlie seed, and has furnished enquirers with information in respect of the various minerals.

A special exhibition of Empire commercial fibres was held in the Pavilion of the Institute during March and April. Exhibits included samples of grades of Sierra Leone piassava fibre and products manufactured therefrom, also an exhibit of Sierra Leone raffia fibre. The piassava diorama was transferred from the Court to the Pavilion for the period of the exhibition. An exhibition was held at Charing Cross Underground Station, London, from 9th to 29th October, under the title " Peeps at the Colonial Empire."

The West African stand was arranged by the Imperial Institute staff, the exhibits comprising groundnuts, oil palm products, cotton, cocoa, piassava and raffia fibres, being arranged on the new " story " lines showing stages from raw material to the finished manufactured product.

APPENDIX.

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.	£	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription, inland	1	5	0
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription, Overseas	1	10	0

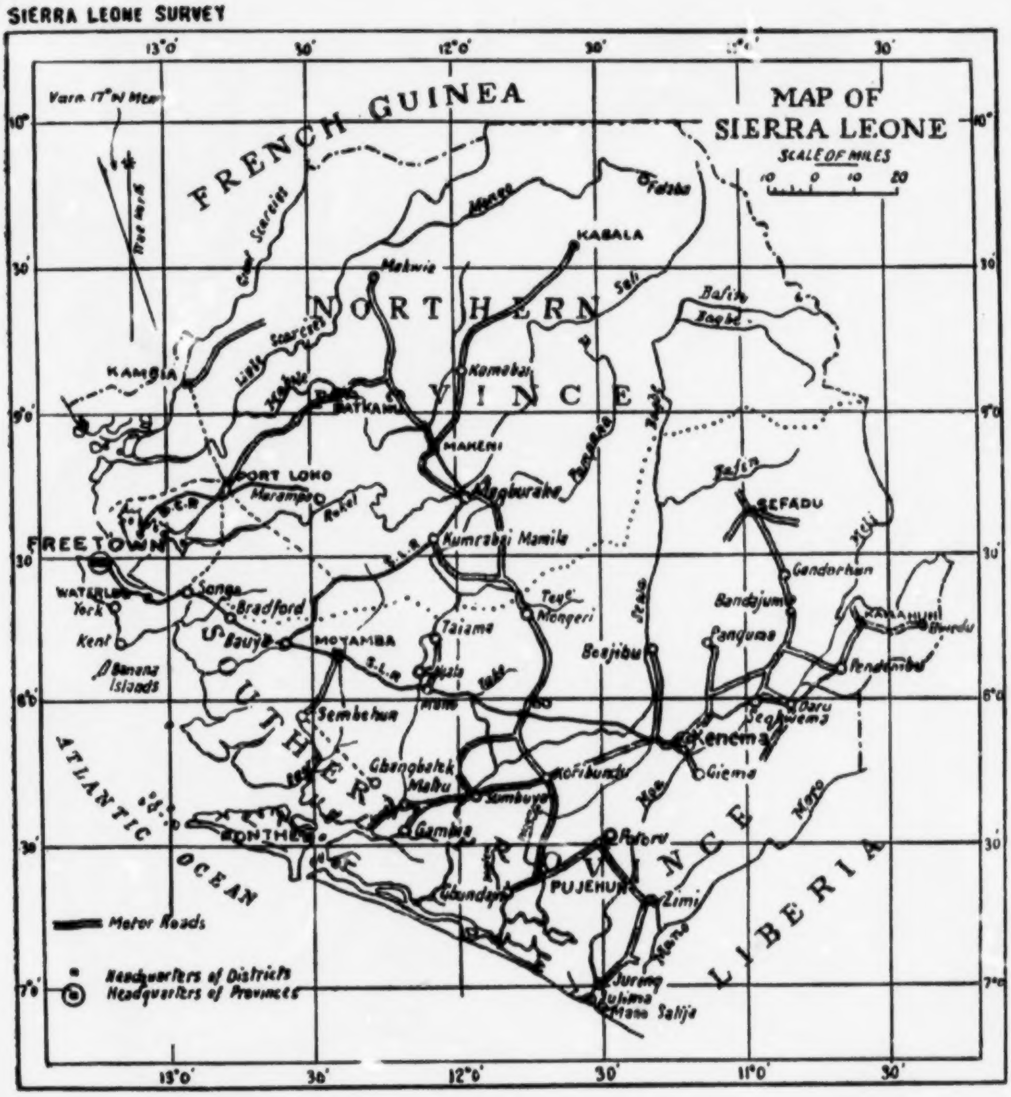
	For current or previous year. s.	d.	*For any prior year.* s.	d.
Royal Gazette, single copies, inclusive of " *Special Supplements* " only		6	1	0
Trade Supplement (postage 1d. extra)		3		6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, &c., not exceeding—				
8 pages		4		8
9–16 "		6	1	0
17–32 "		9	1	6
33–48 "	1	3	2	6
49–64 "	1	6	3	0
65–96 "	2	0	4	0
Exceeding 96 pages	2	6	5	0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

	Price. £	s.	d.	*Postage.* s.	d.
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 each		12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935 each ...		12	6	1	2
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year ...		1	6		2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent numbers, each			6		2

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Sierra Leone Studies (abridged edition of Nos. 1, 2, 3)		1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7–18 and 20, each ...		1	0		2
Handbook of the Temne Language		5	0		3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language		10	6		3
Handbook on the Tse-tse Fly (Austen)		5	0		6
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by Sir H. C. Luke, Kt.		8	6		4
Beri-beri and the Freetown Prison		10	6		6
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vols. 1 & 4, by D. A. Bannerman	1	2	6	1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands by R. R. Glanville		2	6		1½
Census Report, 1931		5	0		6
Mineral Ordinance Revised, 1935		7	6		6
Tide Table, 1937			4		1
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon		1	0		2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone ...		1	4		2
History of Royal West African Frontier Force, by Lieut. R. P. M. Davis		7	6		2½
A Limba-English and English-Limba Dictionary, by Mary Lane Clarke		5	0		4
Crook's History of the Colony of Sierra Leone, Western Africa		1	6		4
Specimen of Languages, by N. W. Thomas ...		4	0		3
Report of the Native Administration to the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, by Mr. J. S. Fenton, O.B.E.		1	6		1
Customs Trade Report, 1935		5	0		5


SIERRA LEONE SURVEY
MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
Varn. 17° W Mer.
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
13°0'
30'
12°0'
11°0'
10°
9°0'
8°0'
7°0'
KAMBIA
BATKANU
PORT LOKO
FREETOWN
WATERLOO
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
MOYAMBA
Sembehun
BONTHE
Gbangbatok
Mattru
Sumbuya
Gambia
Gbundapi
PUJEHUN
Potoru
Zimi
Sulima
Mano Salija
Kenema
Giema
Segbwema
Daru
Pendembu
KAILAHUN
Buedu
Panguma
Bandajuma
Gandorhun
SEFADU
Boajibu
Kabala
Falaba
Makeni
Magburaka
Kamabai
Makwie
Marampa
Kumrabai Mamila
Mongeri
Taiama
Mano
Kori Bundu
Great Scarcies
Little Scarcies
Rokel
Pampana
Seli
Bafin
Bagbe
Sewa
Moa
Mano
Mongo
Kaba
S.L.R.
Motor Roads
Headquarters of Districts
Headquarters of Provinces

NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province are at Freetown.

(45529—48) Wt. 2573—3912 625 12/37 P. St. G. 377/7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A comprehensive Survey, including Memoranda on the Economic Situation of the individual Dependencies and on the Products of the Colonial Empire.

Survey for 1935 [Colonial No. 126] £1 5s. (£1 5s. 8d.)

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Fourth Edition, 1937

I. Africa [Colonial No. 127–1] 3s. 0d. (3s. 3d.)
II. Eastern, Mediterranean, and Pacific [Colonial No. 127–2] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.)
III. West Indies [Colonial No. 127–3] 4s. 0d. (4s. 4d.)

EMPIRE SURVEY

Report of the Proceedings of the Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1935

The Conference was mainly occupied with questions related to trigonometrical and topographical surveying. It also discussed the various aspects of air survey work with particular reference to aerial photography and the production of charts and maps. [Colonial No. 111] £1. (£1 0s. 6d.)

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A Survey [Colonial No. 124] 6d. (7d.)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1936, to 31st March, 1937 [Cmd. 5537] 6d. (7d.)

PALESTINE

Report of Royal Commission [Cmd. 5479] 6s. 6d. (6s. 8d.)
Minutes of Evidence (with Index) [Colonial No. 134] £1 15s. (£1 15s. 6d.)
Memoranda prepared by the Government of Palestine [Colonial No. 133] 9s. (9s. 6d.)
Summary of Report (with Extracts and Map) [Colonial No. 135] 9d. (10d.)
Statement of Policy by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom [Cmd. 5513] 1d. (1½d.)

THE HADHRAMAUT: SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Report by W. H. Ingrams, O.B.E. (with map) 3s. (3s. 3d.)

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

HIGHER EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA

Report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies [Colonial No. 142] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

BROADCASTING SERVICES IN THE COLONIES

Interim Report of a Committee [Colonial No. 139] 6d. (7d.)

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Summary of Legislation as at the end of December, 1936 [Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2: Adastral House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street
MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent
BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERLIS
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
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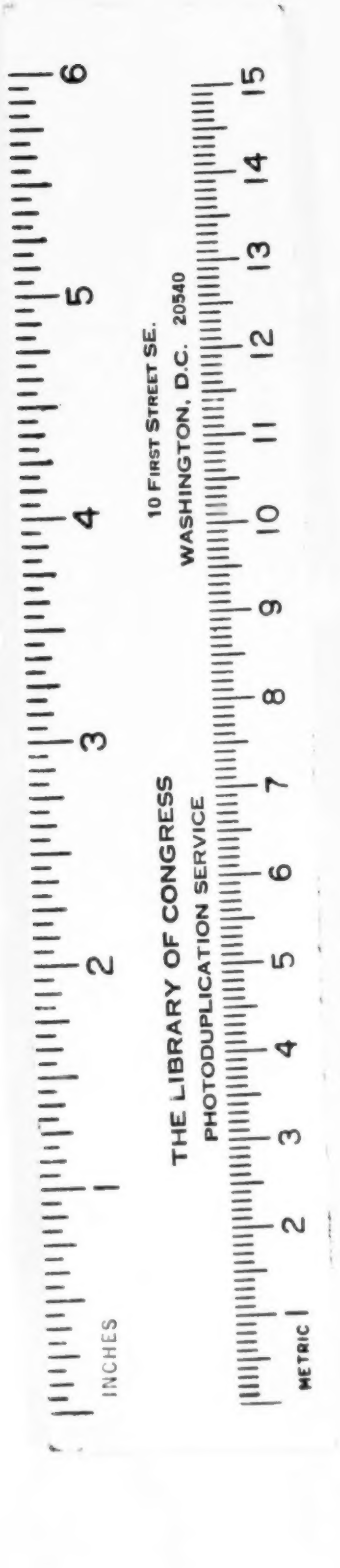
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE, 1937

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or " orchard bush " country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced towards the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly " Harmattan " wind usually blows at intervals during the December—February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed the Harmattan carries down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average minimum and maximum may be placed at 74° and 87° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level. July and August are as a rule the wettest months.

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the "Liberated Africans" who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely, the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

(1) Colony administered as such.

(2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is composed within three Districts—

(1) The Police District of Freetown.

(2) The Headquarters Judicial District.

(3) The Sherbro Judicial District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

This District, which is defined by Section 52 (*a*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (*b*) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioner of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

Sherbro Judicial District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Islands, York Island, and the four following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters Judicial District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years it was, for political purposes, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;

(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and

(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each district is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of adminstrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka

Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and distinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any " palaver " which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (*a*) house tax, and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 was 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives ...	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics...	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census was 1,672,058, of which 796,392 were males and 875,666 were females, and consisted of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate was 231, of which 173 were males and 58 were females. Of this total 142 were British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which were included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate was 772—577 males and 195 females. These included 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate numbered 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These included Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans numbered 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case at the 1931 census.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives ...	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population was as follows:—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives ...	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
		Total African population ...		1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1937, 224 Syrians entered and 129 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,558 immigrants and 2,279 emigrants. The total numbers of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects were 192 and 178 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for (*a*) births and (*b*) deaths for the Colony for 1937 are as follows:—

(*a*)	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Birth-rate.*
	1,202	1,204	2,406	22·9

(*b*)	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Crude Death-rate.*
	1,420	1,148	2,568	24·5

Registration is not compulsory outside Freetown and therefore little reliance can be placed on the figures. They show a slight decrease in the total births and in the crude birth-rate. The crude death-rate is somewhat higher than in 1936.

Infantile Mortality—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000*
314	279	593	246

The rate remains high and to some extent this is due to the doubtful value of the figures of registration.

The Census of 1931 showed the population of the Colony to be 96,422 and the mid-year estimate (1937) for Freetown alone was 63,758.

The population of the Protectorate was recorded as 1,672,058 in 1931.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1937 are:—

	Freetown.	*Village areas. (Colony).*	*Headquarters District. (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Christian	157	42	8	3	39	249
Civil	1	—	—	—	—	1
Mohammedan ...	36	2	—	—	—	38
Totals ...	194	44	8	3	39	288

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate. There is no registration of marriage by "Native Custom."

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

Malaria was more prevalent.

No case of acute rheumatism was recorded. Chronic rheumatism was a little lower in incidence.

External injuries were more numerous and this may be due to the increase in mining, shipping, building and other constructional activities.

Avitaminosis shows a very large increase above the 1936 figure. This is probably due to a fuller realization of its more widespread nature than was formerly suspected; and, in consequence, to a more careful diagnosis of those cases of the disease which presented signs of a mild degree.

A comparative table for 1936 and 1937 is appended.

Disease.	*1936.*	*1937.*
Malaria	7,942	10,232
Yaws	8,202	9,312
Acute Rheumatism	2	—
Chronic Rheumatism	10,671	9,497
Hemiplegia	137	134
Conjunctivitis	1,075	951
Affections of the ear	1,149	1,284
Haemorrhoids	102	99
Lymphadenitis (bubo non-specific)	664	724
Coryza	1,146	1,328
Acute Bronchitis	7,342	6,351
Chronic Bronchitis	5,542	7,358
Asthma	245	203
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc	1,916	1,826
Gastritis	502	395
Dyspepsia	4,420	4,074
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,716	1,793
Ankylostomiasis	405	395
Hernia	1,104	994
Constipation	9,701	8,649
Acute Nephritis	105	81
Schistosomiasis	98	72
Epididymitis	70	50
Orchitis	249	246
Hydrocele	380	327
Abscess	774	731
Scabies	1,742	1,792
Eczema	327	393
Osteitis	355	417
Arthritis	1,800	1,553
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,205	1,350
Fracture	238	251
Other external injuries	4,639	6,169
Asthenia	895	845
Syphilis	769	566
Gonorrhoea	2,755	3,172
Avitaminosis	909	2,186

Mortality.

The figures subtended apply to Freetown including Cline Town and they cannot be taken as more than moderately accurate. The Protectorate figures have not been given.

The number of deaths registered in Freetown on medical certificates was 494 corresponding to 33·1 per cent. of total registrations. The absence of a Medical Officer or Dispenser in a number of areas in the rest of the Colony renders the figures from such places outside Freetown unreliable.

Principal Causes of Deaths—1937.

Causes.	*Freetown (including Cline Town), 1,459.* *Number.*	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	310	21·9
Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	127	8·7
Senility	108	7·4
Malaria	106	7·2
Tuberculosis (all forms)	85	5·8
Prematurity	82	5·6
Nephritis	52	3·5
Chronic Rheumatism	38	2·6
Valvular disease	35	2·4
Paraplegia	23	1·5
Congenital Debility	17	1·1
Convulsions	16	1·1

Provision for Treatment.

The Government hospital facilities within the Colony consist of the Connaught Hospital, Freetown, and the Government Hospital in Bonthe. A comparison of the figures in the past two years is given below.

	1936.	*1937.*
Connaught Hospital :—		
In-patients	2,658	2,512
Out-patients—new cases	18,193	17,676
Subsequent attendances	136,896	108,832
Operations	2,100	2,128
Bonthe Hospital :—		
In-patients	460	466
Out-patients—new cases	3,884	4,080
Subsequent attendances	11,589	17,054

The Protectorate Hospital Pujehun is the last of the "old type" remaining.

Particulars of Protectorate Hospitals of new type are as follows:—

Protectorate Hospital Bo, Southern Province—

	1936.	*1937.*
In-patients	424	354
Out-patients—new cases	3,586	4,046
Subsequent attendances	16,328	16,206

Protectorate Hospital Moyamba, Southern Province—

In patients	222	163
Out-patients—new cases	3,317	2,460
Subsequent attendances	3,658	4,344

Protectorate Hospital Makeni, Northern Province—

In-patients	298	239
Out-patients—new cases	4,583	4,479
Subsequent attendances	14,628	11,692

Protectorate Hospital Port Loko, Northern Province—

In-patients	103	205
Out-patients—new cases	3,360	4,105
Subsequent attendances	18,253	12,540

Protectorate Hospital Kailahun was opened towards the close of the year.

In the Connaught Hospital there is a decrease in subsequent attendances. Those for Bonthe Hospital show slight increases in both in-patients and new out-patients. Subsequent attendances show a large increase. A decrease is recorded in the in-patients at Bo and an increase in the new out-patients.

The records for Makeni Hospital show decreases in the number of in-patients and in the subsequent attendances. In the case of Port Loko Hospital both in-patients and new out-patients have increased in number while those patients attending for subsequent treatments are substantially fewer.

Dispensaries.—There are now eight in the Colony and fourteen in the Protectorate where two more are under construction (at Blama and Panguma).

The Ante-natal, Maternity and Child Welfare work is being maintained.

	Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1936.	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Ante-natal attendances	5,510	6,414	763	904
Labour cases admitted	607	537	23	25
Health visits	10,189	9,325	5,001	3,383
Infant Welfare clinic attendances ...	13,120	13,601	3,407	4,180

Public Health Note.

The progress of sanitation is being maintained.

Smallpox.—A further decrease in the incidence and number of deaths is to be noted. One death occurred in a total of 134 cases. The number of those vaccinated during 1937 is 37,952, which is an increase of 7,870. The decrease in incidence would appear to mark the ending of the epidemic which commenced in 1932.

Nine of the total cases took place in Freetown where the death, alluded to above, also occurred.

Area.	*Number of cases discovered.*	*Number of Deaths.*	*Number of Vaccinations.*
Colony Districts :—			
Freetown	9	1	21,622
Headquarters Judicial ...	18	—	1,912
Bonthe	4	—	878
Protectorate Districts :—			
Northern Province—			
Port Loko	4	—	1,798
Karene	—	—	332
Bombali	13	—	2,028
Koinadugu...	—	—	469
Tonkolili	—	—	331
Southern Province—			
Kailahun	5	—	950
Kenema	1	—	256
Kono	—	—	230
Bo	11	—	2,252
Moyamba	55	—	2,586
Pujehun	14	—	871
Sherbro	—	—	1,437
	134	1	37,952

Of the nine cases shown against Freetown, three cases were imported.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses with concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm-tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or of native timber boarding, and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables houseowners and prospective houseowners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately thirty-nine new houses have been erected at a cost of about £15,733.

In addition, a building scheme has been introduced by a firm of timber merchants in Freetown. Under this scheme, prospective owners of the type of house property costing from £250 to £600 can erect buildings under the supervision of the firm both expeditiously and inexpensively, payment being made by an initial small deposit followed by monthly instalments.

In connexion with this scheme, Government has laid out and has leased to the firm a small model residential area which enables intending houseowners to obtain (by assignment from the firm) leases of building plots at a moderate ground rent and with an option to purchase the freehold within 20 years.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm-tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities in Sierra Leone are gold, diamonds, iron ore, platinum and probably chromite and ilmenite. Exports of the first five minerals were made during the year.

Production for 1937 is compared with that for the previous year in the following table:—

	Gold: crude and unrefined gold bullion (ozs. troy).	*Platinum coarse crude (ozs. troy).*	*Diamonds (carats).*	*Iron ore exports (tons).*	*Chromite exports (tons).*	*Estimated value.* £
1936 ...	40,764	484	616,200	566,595	—	1,248,695
1937 ...	39,151	308	913,401	633,985	729	1,666,102

The area of ground under mineral development at the end of the year consisted of 68,711 acres under mining lease and concession titles and 173,006 yards of streams under mining right titles together with a further 97,197 yards of stream under permission to mine prior to grant of title. Exclusive Prospecting Licences were held over 974 square miles of country, and during the year 45 Prospecting Rights were issued.

Gold.—It is likely that the production of alluvial gold reached its peak during 1936. The output for the year 1937 reached 39,151 ounces of an estimated value of £251,766 which is a slight decline on the previous year's record of 40,722 ounces. Gold has as yet only been produced from alluvial sources, but prospecting for lode has been continued.

Attention has recently been turned to the possibility of dredging in the bigger rivers and an amount of work has been done in this connexion.

No new areas have been discovered but mining continues actively in the districts previously worked—namely Tonkolili (lately parts of Koinadugu and Bombali) and Karene in the Northern Province and Bo, Kailahun and Kono in the Southern Province.

Diamonds.—This industry continued in a very satisfactory state. The output for the year was 913,401 carats which considerably exceeds that for 1936 which was 616,200 carats. A large proportion of the diamonds are of gem quality and reserves are considerable. As a result future prospects are indeed bright.

Diamonds are being mined in Kono District.

Iron Ore.—The output for the year was 633,985 tons which shows an increase over last year when the production was 566,595 tons. The company concerned is erecting a concentration plant at Marampa for dealing with powder ore and work on loading facilities for handling the concentrates at Pepel is now in progress.

A survey for the proposed extension of the railway from Marampa to the Tonkolili area was completed some time ago, but the construction has not yet commenced and it may be some time before the enormous Tonkolili deposits are exploited.

Platinum.—A few individuals were engaged in a small way. The output amounted to but 308 ounces against 484 ounces for last year. It is being mined in the Colony.

Chromite.—An Exclusive Prospecting Licence has been granted in respect of this mineral and tests are being carried out. A quantity of chromite was shipped in order to test the quality of the ore and to explore the market for it. It is too early yet to give any idea of the prospects.

The chromite deposit is in Kenema District.

Ilmenite.—An interest was shown in the ilmenite sands in the Colony and a prospecting and drilling campaign was undertaken more particularly with a view to locating economic deposits of platiniferous ilmenite sands. Results were not encouraging.

General.—Gold mining is carried out by companies, syndicates and individuals. The alluvial deposits in the streams of gold and of platinum are very suitable for individual operators. The diamonds are mined by a company which holds a monopoly for their exploitation. The base metal deposits require large scale capital interests for their development and working.

The haematite deposits at Marampa are mined under a concession granted by the Tribal Authority of the Marampa Chiefdom. Diamonds, gold and platinum are mined under mining lease titles and mining right titles. The chromite was taken from ground the subject of an exclusive prospecting licence and exported by permission under the Minerals Ordinance.

Mining leases may be of several kinds dependent on the nature and mode of occurrence of the mineral in respect of which they are taken up and the mineral rent, period of tenure and allowable area vary according to the kind of lease. Mining rights are of one kind only and are intended for ground the mineral bearing qualities of which are not such as to justify a mining lease. Permission to mine may be granted pending the grant of title to a mining lease or mining right. Water rights may be taken up to allow of the working of mining properties.

For mining leases, mining rights and water rights, mineral rents and water rents respectively are payable to the Crown and such rents from properties in the Protectorate are placed to the credit of a Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund: surface rents and compensation for surface damage are payable to and apportioned between the landowner and Paramount Chief of the chiefdom in which the mining property is located.

Mining is restricted in certain areas.

There was no recorded local consumption of the minerals produced.

Agricultural Produce.

The total area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 square miles. The general system of agriculture is that known as "shifting cultivation" and it is impossible to estimate with any accuracy the area under annual cultivation. The chief crop is rice, both upland and wetland. Others of importance are cassava, "fundi" (*Digitaria exilis*), groundnuts, sweet potato, and ginger.

Formerly a large proportion of the country was covered by high forest, but not more than 2-5 per cent. is now under this type of vegetation. Some 40-50 per cent. is under secondary bush, varying from 3 to 20 years of age, according to population density and marketing facilities, which are the chief factors determining demand for farming land; this type of bush is the source of the main export crops, chiefly oil palm, kola, ginger and cacao. 35-45 per cent. is under orchard bush and grass; about two-thirds of this is farmed by the shifting cultivation method; the remainder, although affording grazing to some extent, is unsuitable by reason of the soil conditions for any agricultural uses. Land which is swampy, either permanently or in the rainy season only, accounts for some 10-20 per cent.

of the total area; at present about one-tenth is under annual rice cultivation. Raphia palms are common in many swamps not cleared for rice and provide piassava for export and many products for local use.

Along the coast fishing is an important local industry and cured fish from this source are an important item of food in all parts of the country enjoying good transport facilities. The production of salt is a minor industry in some of the estuaries.

The area devoted to mineral production is relatively small, and future development is unlikely to interfere seriously with agricultural lands.

As to future development and improvement of land suitable for agriculture: apart from swamps there is practically no unused land which can be profitably brought under cultivation. An increasing population, settled conditions and improved marketing facilities have brought about a demand for agricultural land which has resulted in the shortening of the fallow (bush regrowth) period. The bush, and with it soil fertility, is rapidly deteriorating and the area required annually to maintain production is increasing steadily. The heavy rainfall, and attendant soil erosion and leaching, have so far prevented the evolution of any satisfactory system of intensive farming. If the destruction of bush is not checked it is obvious that not only will food production suffer but the Colony's chief exports, oil palm products, kola and cocoa, will be in great danger.

Future development will therefore depend largely on the satisfactory conservation of bush—it is thought that a regrowth period of about 10 years between croppings will be necessary—and the fuller utilization of swamp land for food production, chiefly rice. It has already been stated that only about one-tenth of the existing swamp land is utilized, for rice in the rainy season and, where conditions are favourable, for sweet potato and vegetable crops in the dry season. Farmers are being encouraged and assisted to develop the swamps; steady progress is being made and there is reason to believe that about 50 per cent. of the swamp area can be utilized by present methods and practically all where and when economic pressure makes drainage and irrigation profitable.

During the latter part of the year under review agricultural surveys were started which comprise the Colony Peninsula and the extensive coastal swamp area between the Ribbi and Bagru rivers in the Southern Province.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The 1937 crop was slightly above normal and it is not anticipated that there will be any shortage in 1938. In this connexion it should be clearly understood that the principal rice harvest extends roughly from October to January and that the effect of any one season is not felt on the market till the following year. It is thought that while the season and the upland farms (which depend entirely on the season) were normal, the swamp areas showed an increase in production and it is estimated that the market recently created by the rapid growth of the mining industry will be supplied by local production.

It is quite impossible to give more than the roughest estimate of the annual rice production since no statistics exist, but judging from the population, and the place that rice fills in the diet of the people, it is estimated that production in a normal year approximates to 175,000 tons of paddy.

Efforts are being made to increase the production of this crop in the wetland areas in order to relieve the pressure on the dry-land farms for rice. In the Scarcies swamp area the Government has introduced improved varieties of rice which give bigger yields of good quality rice. G.E.B. 24, which was mentioned in the 1936 report, is increasing rapidly and has become established in the market as the foremost of the local rices. It commands a small premium.

The rice cleaning mill which started in 1936 at Cline Town milled 11,896 bushels that year. In 1937 some 29,863 bushels were milled and milling was only restricted by difficulties with regard to parboiling and storage. The proper cleaning of rice is much appreciated by the consumers and a substantial premium can be obtained for properly cleaned rice.

As anticipated in the last Annual Report there was a shortage of rice during 1937 and Government had to take measures to meet the situation. The Director of Agriculture was made Food Controller, the price of rice was controlled, the duty was taken off imported rice and the railway freight from Freetown into the Protectorate was reduced. Government imported a quantity of rice and the local firms followed suit. As a result of Government control the situation was met without any real hardship to consumers and all cornering and profiteering was avoided. Some 4,204 tons of rice were imported (just about enough to feed the mining population) and it is interesting to observe that even in a bad year Sierra Leone has become practically self supporting.

Food Crops other than rice.—The production of these, of which the most important are digitaria, cassava, groundnut and sweet potato, was not hindered by the season, and the total production was probably slightly higher than normal to make up for the small 1936 rice crop. In any year when the early rains are such that a poor rice crop seems probable, every effort is made by farmers to increase the production of other foods.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—76,776 tons of palm kernels valued at £884,812 were exported in 1937. The falling off in quantity was undoubtedly due to the falling off in price, producers holding back their produce in the latter part of the year hoping for a rise. Practically the whole of the kernels harvested are exported.

Ginger.—2,384 tons valued at £97,622 were exported in 1937. This is the highest quantity of recent years and was undoubtedly due to the high prices prevailing for this commodity. It is expected that the large amount exported in 1937 will adversely affect prices in 1938. Very little ginger is used locally; this is regarded as an export crop.

Piassava.—3,392 tons of piassava valued at £43,609 was exported. This is not the largest quantity ever exported in a year but it is the highest value yet reached, and is due to the great improvement in quality effected by the propaganda and inspection of the Agricultural Department. Piassava is an export crop and very little is used locally.

Kola.—There was a small revival in the Kola trade. 2,248 tons valued at £60,504 were exported and this is the highest quantity and value since 1931. It is thought that this increase in trade is due to improved conditions in Nigeria to which country a great deal of the kola is exported. Kola is grown both for consumption and for export. Probably as much is consumed locally as is exported.

Cocoa.—At the beginning of the year there was every indication of a record export but the rapid fall in prices during the second half of the year so discouraged production that only 265 tons valued at £8,830 were actually exported. The greater part of the cocoa produced is exported.

Coffee.—The growth of coffee for export is still in its infancy but it is slowly spreading. In 1936 some 14 tons valued at £324 were exported while in 1937 this export had increased to 58 tons valued at £1,201. Coffee is consumed partly in the country and part is exported. Probably at least 75 per cent. of this crop was exported in 1937.

Livestock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the livestock of this country. Cattle farming is carried out in a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country and pigs to a small extent. The value of the export in hides amounted to £4,854 in 1937. Government has secured the services of a Livestock Officer to investigate the possibilities of improving the numbers of the various forms of stock in the Dependency.

General.

The production of food is entirely in the hands of individual agriculturists, the majority of whom are farmer owners. Each farmer, with the assistance of family labour, produces food for his own consumption. In the more backward parts of the country the farmer grows a diversity of crops and is practically self sufficient for all food supplies, but where transport facilities are good there is a tendency to concentrate on the most profitable crops and obtain other food requirements by barter or with the money from sales. There is as yet no export of local food crops, although an export in rice is expected in the near future, and the production of more food than can be consumed locally is unknown. The cultivation, or collection and preparation, of agricultural products for the export market is also in the hands of individual agriculturists, and the money realized by the sale of these commodities is largely utilized for the payment of taxes and the purchase of imported articles.

All products are sold in the open market. The more fortunately placed producers can sell direct to the commercial firms and get a fair price, but a big proportion are obliged to deal with small petty traders and get a poor return for their labour. It is clear that there are distinct possibilities for organized co-operative marketing especially in connexion with the important export crops.

The introduction of suitable co-operative legislation is expected in 1938. In anticipation of this two farmers' marketing societies have been started in the Scarcies area where rice is produced on an intensive scale. In 1937 the membership of these societies was 56 and nearly 250 tons of paddy were sent to the Government mill in Freetown for cleaning and disposal.

Production for food and export is entirely in the hands of the indigenous peoples. The Syrian community, numbering about 1,400, have in the past restricted their activities to trading, but are now showing an interest in the production of bananas for export, and it is possible that in 1938 a Company will be formed to promote this new and potentially very important industry.

Employment of agricultural labour under Europeans is restricted to about 300 men engaged annually on the experimental and demonstration stations of the Agricultural Department. The knowledge gained in this way by labourers who subsequently return to work in their villages is definitely beneficial. The most striking results, however, are obtained through the district propaganda and instruction afforded by the Agricultural Officers and the Instructors working under them. By this means planting material of new crops and improved indigenous varieties has been widely disseminated. In addition farmers have been taught how to choose sites for, and plant and maintain economic crops, chiefly cocoa, coffee and oil palm. A few farmers have also been helped to take up ploughing which is new to this country. It has been found that farmers directly assisted in this way afford a demonstration, and diffuse knowledge, which their neighbours are quick to adopt. The value of the instruction and supervision of the Produce Inspectors cannot be overestimated, resulting, as it has, in a tremendous improvement of the export products, notably palm kernels, palm oil, piassava and ginger.

Forests.

Forestry in Sierra Leone, as elsewhere, performs a dual function: it attempts to protect all existing forest and tries, within the limits of its financial resources, to develop areas capable of development in the existing economic regime.

It is estimated, tentatively, that about 1,500 square miles of true forest remains in the country most of which is tropical rain forest, scattered remnants mostly of a much more extensive forest estate which must have existed in the not distant past. Local agricultural methods, which must have persisted for centuries, have undoubtedly destroyed large tracts of such forest, and settled peaceful conditions are hastening the processes of destruction. Nevertheless, given scientific forest management, it is considered that the area quoted above is sufficient to meet nearly all local timber requirements at the present rate of consumption, but there seems little likelihood in the near future of any available surplus which could bring about a revival of the export trade which flourished until roughly the middle of the nineteenth century. It is curious too that the usual West African export species appear to be largely absent from Sierra Leone. Sawyers will find it difficult to obtain their supplies from outside reserves and exploitation will have to be started in such reserves where it is economically possible.

In 1937 imports of timber according to Customs returns amounted to 1,112,129 super. ft. valued at £16,699. It is impossible to estimate the consumption of sawn timber obtained from outside reserves but in Kenema, in the Kambui Reserve, an exploitation scheme initiated in 1934 by the Forest Department produced during the year 222,274 super. ft. or roughly 20 per cent. by volume of the figure for imported timber. The direct result of this organization has been largely to replace in certain Government Departments, the use of imported by local timber. It is hoped that this work will be extended considerably in the near future.

Less spectacular, but at least equally important if more difficult to appraise, is the protective work done by the Forest Department. About 70 per cent. by area of existing forest reserves in the country may be classed as protection forests. The aims of such reservation are to protect hill slopes from destructive and, in the end, unprofitable agriculture: to prevent erosion: to maintain, so far as is possible, existing climatic conditions: to protect important watersheds and the gathering grounds of the principal streams. There is no reason whatever why reserves primarily protective in function should not be developed economically as well. By careful management this can easily be contrived but limiting factors are ease of communications by road, rail or water and the accessibility of possible markets. Here the habits and relative wealth of the people play an important part. In many parts of the Protecttorate mud and wattle houses with thatched roofs are still the rule. There would appear to be little immediate likelihood of such people changing their building methods even if supplies of cheap sawn timber were available.

The area of reserved forest in Colony and Protectorate has now reached at 766 square miles the most inadequate figure of approximately 2·75 per cent. of the total area of country. Plans are being laid which aim at bringing this figure nearer to what experts consider to be the desirable safe minimum for tropical countries which is variously estimated at from 20 to 30 per cent. Reserves in the Colony are on Crown Lands which are therefore available for purposes of Government but in the Protectorate only timber rights over reserved areas are alienated. The land there still belongs to the communal owners and this is recognized by the grant to them of a royalty on all forest produce extracted from the reserves. Farming rights in reserves are respected and the Settlement Courts make allowance for such rights when reserve agreements are negotiated.

Improvement fellings which are silvicultural in aim as well as for utilization, are being carried out in the Kambui Reserve. In certain other reserves regeneration by the taungya method is now being undertaken as extensively as organization of the necessary nursery stocks can be arranged.

VII.—COMMERCE.

An attractive price in the European market for each of the various articles of domestic produce is the chief incentive to an export trade of any importance. The principal articles of produce are palm kernels, palm oil, ginger, piassava and peppers, the leading purchasing countries in 1937 being the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the

United States of America. Palm kernels accounted for 32 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1937.

The export of minerals (diamonds, raw gold, and iron ore) accounted for 60 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1937. To this percentage diamonds contributed 38, gold 10 and iron ore 12.

Import trade is done with the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Canada and South Africa, some of the principal articles being cotton piece-goods, beer, flour, salt, tobacco, coal, illuminating oil, motor spirit and provisions unenumerated.

Rice, the staple food of the African population, is produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demand; but a noteworthy trade is done in imported articles of foodstuff.

The following table shows the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the past five years:—

Year.	*Total Imports.*	*Domestic Exports.*	*Re-exports.*
	£	£	£
1933	824,882	753,930	30,013
1934	805,170	832,805	179,070
1935	1,214,231	1,556,816	27,018
1936	1,346,646	2,224,918	152,047
1937	1,839,482	2,550,512	23,563

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS FROM EMPIRE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1933 TO 1937 AND THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
United Kingdom ...	59·24	58·38	70·17	70·00	69·79
British West African Possessions.	·76	·77	2·87	·36	·55
British Possessions (other).	9·76	18·03	11·02	13·91	14·60
France	1·95	1·45	1·08	·95	·68
Germany	4·06	2·75	2·61	2·64	2·43
Netherlands	·88	·55	·70	·71	·74
United States of America.	10·91	8·59	6·11	4·96	4·15
Japan	5·20	3·57	·76	1·47	1·60
Foreign West African Possessions.	1·20	·12	·41	·30	·71
Other European Countries.	5·09	4·66	3·38	3·46	4·04
Other Countries ...	·95	1·13	·89	1·24	·71
Totals	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

THE PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO EMPIRE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1933 TO 1937 AND THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
United Kingdom ...	54·79	67·12	68·12	61·81	69·07
British West African Possessions.	6·80	3·11	3·08	7·40	2·16
British Possessions (other).	·26	·35	·37	·40	·48
France	·21	·19	·10	·29	·41
Germany	20·62	14·63	11·31	14·86	15·59
Netherlands	11·03	8·34	7·87	11·14	6·33
United States of America.	2·42	2·02	2·46	1·00	2·22
Japan	—	·07	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	·65	·91	·58	·45	·65
Other European Countries.	2·60	2·99	5·73	2·46	2·87
Other Countries ...	·62	·27	·38	·19	·22
Totals	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

STATEMENT OF THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS DURING 1936 AND 1937 OTHER THAN BULLION AND SPECIE, INDICATING THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

Article.		*1936.*		*1937.*		*Principal Sources of Supply.*
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
			£		£	
Beer and ale, stout and porter	Imp. gall.	115,792	21,469	158,124	29,433	United Kingdom, Eire, Germany.
Biscuits, bread and cakes :—						
Cabin or ships'	cwt.	3,064	5,147	6,899	13,394	United Kingdom.
Fish of all kinds	,,	2,039	5,290	4,192	10,529	,,
Rice	,,	908	578	84,085	46,387	British India.
Flour	,,	25,727	19,016	30,911	27,184	Canada.
Salt (common)	,,	78,600	18,582	100,521	24,865	United Kingdom.
Sugar	,,	14,716	8,478	17,966	11,836	United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia.
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	lb.	1,230,404	47,128	1,619,299	68,646	Canada, Nyasaland, Union of South Africa, United States of America.
Tobacco	,,	51,191	16,202	67,094	19,303	United Kingdom.
Cigarettes	hundreds	204,764		258,986		
Wines, still	Imp. gall.	63,236	14,548	86,943	19,180	Union of South Africa, Germany, Netherlands.
Coal	ton	35,920	45,864	74,104	113,335	United Kingdom.
Lumber	Superficial feet.	830,643	9,876	1,112,129	16,699	Canada, Gold Coast, United States of America, United Kingdom.
Apparel :—						
Hats, caps, bonnets, etc....	doz.	*	13,645	31,461	13,072	United Kingdom, Japan, Germany.
Singlets	No.	†	—	468,013	13,678	Hong Kong, United Kingdom.
Bags and sacks (empty) ...	,,	1,005,804	20,677	1,390,570	29,287	British India.

* Quantity not required by Import List prior to 1937.

† Posted under Apparel, other kinds, in 1936.

Article.		*1936.*		*1937.*		*Principal Sources of Supply.*
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
			£		£	
Woollen and worsted manufactures (all kinds).	value	—	15,974	—	13,859	United Kingdom.
Implements and tools ...	,,	—	11,184	—	14,205	,,
Machinery, electrical ...	,,	—	4,203	—	17,256	,,
,, industrial ...	,,	—	1,458	—	13,538	,,
,, mining	,,	—	36,369	—	38,315	,,
Metals :—						
Buckets, pails and basins	doz.	33,662	10,590	44,273	16,506	,,
Corrugated iron sheets ...	ton	699	10,489	621	13,055	,,
Other kinds	value	—	43,957	—	56,199	United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium.
Vehicles—motor cars ...	No.	140	19,800	99	14,601	United Kingdom, Canada.
Beads	lb.	77,548	10,697	95,860	13,342	Germany, Czechoslovakia.
Cement	ton	3,314	8,804	4,777	13,730	United Kingdom.
Medicine and drugs	value	—	15,367	—	18,463	United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany.
Oil—illuminating	Imp. gall.	399,389	15,516	491,344	22,794	United States of America, Trinidad.
,, Motor spirit	,,	372,065	14,669	461,554	22,353	,, ,,
Perfumery	value	—	10,025	—	14,286	United Kingdom.

THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, OTHER THAN BULLION AND SPECIE DURING 1936 AND 1937.

		1936.		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£
Benniseed	ton	409	4,991	104	1,662
Cocoa, raw	,,	301	5,542	265	8,830
Diamonds	value	—	725,272	—	1,070,384
Ginger	lb.	3,677,072	58,673	5,340,944	97,622
Gold	oz. (troy)	38,804	256,139	40,828	269,465
Hides (cattle) tanned	lb.	21,516	1,197	27,920	2,029
,, untanned	cwt.	411	624	1,032	2,825
Kola nuts	cental of 100 lb.	51,539	41,539	50,347	60,504
Palm kernels	ton	84,578	810,238	76,776	884,812
Palm oil	,,	1,223	16,313	2,325	42,238
Peppers	lb.	64,812	1,354	45,455	1,093
Piassava	ton	3,558	32,777	3,392	43,609
Platinum	oz. (troy)	375	3,184	227	2,361
Rice	cwt.	4,160	1,418	140	88
Iron ore	value	—	262,143	—	325,605
Re-exports (less specie and currency notes) :—					
Wood and timber unmanufactured, other kinds.		—	25	—	1,164
Metals—iron and steel manufactures, other kinds.		—	1,529	—	3,895
Vehicles—Ships and boats mechanically propelled.		—	1,100	—	1,500
,, road, commercial vehicles, etc.		—	—	—	1,430
,, road, private cars		—	3,028	—	2,729
,, air, aeroplane parts		—	—	—	1,550
Goods unenumerated manufactured		—	312	—	1,371
Machinery—marine		—	247	—	312
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus :—					
Wireless apparatus :—					
Complete sets		—	—	—	470
Other re-exports		—	12,786	—	8,962

Palm Kernels: The Home market price gradually decreased from £18 8s. in January to £10 18s. 4d. in December and averaged throughout the year £13 10s. as compared with £11 16s. 8d. in 1936.

Shipments to the United Kingdom increased from 25,657 to 29,962 tons. Exports to Germany fell from 33,476 to 33,213 tons, and to the Netherlands from 21,507 to 10,120 tons.

BRIEF STATISTICS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COIN AND NOTES DURING 1933 TO 1937.

IMPORTS.

	1933. £	*1934.* £	*1935.* £	*1936.* £	*1937.* £
Specie and Currency Notes :—					
Alloy...	5,523	12,144	82,250	40,075	124,001
Nickel	—	1,102	1,573	1,405	2,154
Silver	206	184	3	5,500	—
Currency notes ...	2,045	15,406	3,849	1,276	21,397

EXPORTS.

	1933. £	*1934.* £	*1935.* £	*1936.* £	*1937.* £
Specie and Currency Notes :—					
Alloy...	197	152,480	200	25,720	180
Nickel	160	240	—	—	—
Silver	11,350	8,394	11,545	6,800	—
Currency notes ...	—	2,580	1,230	100,500	—

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1937 amounted to £1,839,582 as compared with £1,346,715 in 1936, being an increase of £492,867.

The following table shows the value of imports by classes during the years 1936 and 1937:—

	1936. £	*1937.* £	*Increase.* £
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	231,864	366,195	134,331
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	67,526	147,171	79,645
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	965,374	1,139,428	174,054
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	33,626	39,136	5,510
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc....	48,325	147,652	99,327
Totals	£1,346,715	£1,839,582	£492,867

Total increase ... £492,867.

Compared with 1936 there were increases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I—" Food " by £96,782, " Drink " by £12,985, and " Tobacco " (mainly unmanufactured) by £24,564.

Commercial coal and lumber were mainly responsible for the increase in Class II, the value being £79,645 more than the 1936 imports.

With few exceptions all items under Class III recorded an increase, particularly building materials—all kinds (£41,490).

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piecegoods, including velveteen, for the years 1933 to 1937:—

Year.	*Quantity.* *Sq. yds.*	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1933	6,129,891	124,702	24,047
1934	5,638,488	107,740	26,524
1935	14,207,762	297,455	72,593
1936	14,408,232	328,107	76,320
1937	12,897,332	312,308	65,067

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1936 and 1937:—

	Value. *1936.* £	*Percentage.* *1936.*	*Value.* *1937.* £	*Percentage.* *1937.*
United Kingdom	942,746	70·00	1,283,815	69·79
British West African Possessions.	4,882	0·36	10,137	0·55
British Possessions (other) ...	187,327	13·91	268,631	14·60
France	12,829	0·95	12,417	0·68
Germany	35,498	2·64	44,734	2·43
Netherlands	9,553	0·71	13,551	0·74
United States of America ...	66,833	4·96	76,273	4·15
Japan	19,754	1·47	29,439	1·60
Foreign West African Possessions.	3,996	0·30	13,085	0·71
Other European Countries ...	46,592	3·46	74,367	4·04
Other Countries	16,705	1·24	13,133	0·71
Totals	£1,346,715	100·00	£1,839,582	100·00

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year 1937 amounted to £2,843,540 (domestic exports being £2,819,977 and non-domestic £23,563).

The following table shows the value of exports by classes during the years 1936 and 1937:—

	1936. £	*1937.* £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Class I—				
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	69,601	171,057	101,456	—
Class II—				
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.	1,900,088	2,379,605	479,517	—
Class III—				
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	17,617	19,590	1,973	—
Class IV—				
Animals not for food ...	500	3,643	3,143	—
Class V—				
Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes.	389,159	269,645	—	119,514
Totals	£2,376,965	£2,843,540	£586,089	£119,514

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1936 and 1937:—

Country.	Value. 1936.	Percentage. 1936.	Value. 1937.	Percentage. 1937.
	£		£	
United Kingdom	1,469,276	61·81	1,964,006	69·07
British West African Possessions	175,847	7·40	61,340	2·16
British Possessions (other) ...	9,493	0·40	13,563	0·48
France	6,966	0·29	11,728	0·41
Germany	353,109	14·86	443,346	15·59
Netherlands	264,646	11·14	180,092	6·33
United States of America ...	23,748	1·00	63,189	2·22
Japan	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	10,750	0·45	18,448	0·65
Other European Countries ...	58,575	2·46	81,520	2·87
Other Countries	4,555	0·19	6,308	0·22
Totals	£2,376,965	100·00	£2,843,540	100·00

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years:—

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1933	64,083	472,824
1934	68,655	360,780
1935	78,019	583,645
1936	84,578	810,238
1937	76,776	884,812

State of Trade.

The following comparative table summarizes the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years:—

Year.	Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).	Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).	Net Imports.	Domestic Exports.	Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.	Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.	Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.	Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1933	817,108	18,306	798,802	753,930	44,872	—	371,686	3,509,799
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310
1935	1,126,556	14,043	1,112,513	1,556,816	—	444,303	441,966	4,794,868
1936	1,298,390	19,027	1,279,363	2,224,918	—	945,555	491,694	4,979,189
1937	1,691,930	23,383	1,668,547	2,550,512	—	881,965	531,556	5,473,202

TOURIST TRAFFIC.

The first cruise ship to arrive in Sierra Leone was the *Laconia*, carrying 331 tourists, on the 28th February, 1928. In 1937 four vessels visited Freetown and approximately 1,282 tourists came ashore.

The season ranges from December to April.

The amount spent in the Colony by tourists is not large. £233 was obtained by the Railway department in 1937 for excursions to Waterloo, a village 21 miles distant from Freetown and it is estimated that the motor transport services benefited to the extent of £200.

Cars are available for drives to Hill Station, a residential quarter six miles from Freetown at a height of 850 feet, and to Lumley Beach, a drive of seven miles, where sea bathing may be indulged in.

Conditions in Sierra Leone are not entirely suitable for tourist traffic. Cruising vessels do not remain in the harbour overnight and the visit ashore is therefore of short duration and is made in intense heat. In view of these facts it appears unlikely that there will be any appreciable increase in the number of cruising vessels and tourists visiting this Colony.

VIII.—LABOUR.

Mineral Industry.

An average number of 14,093 Africans was employed in mining and prospecting throughout the year and additional numbers were engaged in such accessory services as police work, building and construction, etc.

In general the labour supply was adequate. The company working on the chromite deposits was hampered at the start of its operations by a poor supply of labour. As its name became known, however, men volunteered and after three or four months the supply was sufficient. With this same company a strike of short duration occurred when the daily wage labourers demanded an increase in pay from ninepence to a shilling a day. The dispute was settled although the demand was not granted. With this exception relations between labour and the mines staffs continued to be satisfactory.

No recruiting methods were necessary there being normally sufficient men applying for work on the spot. There were the usual seasonal contractions in labour supply during the planting and harvesting periods.

In the gold and platinum industries the introduction of tributing has been very successful with the native who in the majority of cases prefers tributing to daily wage work. In these industries more than half the labour was so engaged.

The popularity of the method often decided the manner of working in favour of tributing.

Other unskilled labour was employed on a daily wage basis, and the rate of pay was either fixed or made dependent on the completion of a task.

One company augments the wage with a free daily issue of rice, and other companies by accumulating stocks of rice ensure that rice shall be available at a reasonable price to the labour throughout the year.

Agricultural Labour.

The 1931 census estimated the total population at 1,768,480. The number of non-Africans is negligible. Adult able-bodied males number about 450,000 and of these about 95 per cent., with the assistance from other members of their families, are engaged in agriculture as a whole or part-time occupation. There are no agricultural estates or plantations and the labour on farms is of a family nature, assisted to a small extent by domestics and casual labour which does not receive any cash payment but is usually given lodging, some produce, and often the use of farm land.

At present the supply of labour for agricultural pursuits is adequate. Recent mining activities have withdrawn some 14,000 labourers, and their dependants, from farming, and this has created a demand for 4,000 to 5,000 tons of rice, in addition to other foodstuffs. In 1937 this demand was met by importing rice, but in future years it is expected that local production will increase sufficiently to make importation unnecessary.

Forestry Labour.

The Forest Department is not a large employer of labour. At Kenema average figures for 1937 were:—

	Average monthly numbers.	
Sawyers (skilled and semi-skilled).	50	Usually work in groups of three which earn on an average £3 per month: this divided, £1 10s. or roughly 1s. 3d. per day to the headman: the other £1 10s. is divided between the other two men probably in the proportion 9d. and 6d. per day. Good gangs can earn up to as much as double the above amount.
Labourers	45	Paid at standard Protectorate rate of 8d. per day.

To obtain supplies of labour at Kenema has proved increasingly difficult and the monthly average has fluctuated between 26 and 79. Work is arduous, sometimes dangerous and during the heavy rains not a little irksome. It is not surprising therefore that labourers tend to go elsewhere in search of more congenial work. Chiefly because of shortage of labour, but for other reasons as well, the Department has been compelled to consider seriously the question of mechanization of all the processes of exploitation. A power-driven saw-mill, fed by mechanized transport, would relieve local labour of much of the drudgery of present work at Kenema. It is to be hoped that conditions will then prove more attractive.

Plantation work at Tabe and elsewhere gave employment to a monthly average of 51 labourers but here the variation was between 19 and 190. Such work is essentially seasonal in its incidence and sometimes labourers were only employed for a few days in one month of the year. With the exception of two senior nurserymen at 1s. 9d. per day and nine junior nurserymen at 1s. 6d., labour was usually paid at the basic Protectorate rate of 8d. per day.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (*Public Works*).—In Freetown during 1937 Public Works artisans were paid from 2s. to 6s. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. a day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 8d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. to 5s. for journeymen.

Labourers (*Public Works*).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 2s.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 8d. to 1s., while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 10d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the only staple food, was obtainable at from 6s. to 10s. a bushel.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Education is still governed by the Ordinance of 1929 and the Schedule of Rules for the Colony (1929) and the Protectorate (1930).

In the Colony the Protestant infant and primary schools are conducted by school committees as the result of the amalgamation of denominational schools. Of these there are 42. There are also two Government, three Roman Catholic and three Mohammedan schools. The managers of these schools, i.e., the owners of the school buildings or their representatives, are theoretically responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, but Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment. All school fees are paid into Government revenue. There are at present 50 schools of this type in the Colony, with 7,447 pupils on their rolls and an average attendance of 5,776.

There is one Government secondary school for boys in the Colony and three assisted schools, which receive capitation and equipment grants; grants are also paid to qualified teachers. There are four assisted girls secondary schools. In these schools there are on the rolls:—

Boys.—49 primary, 173 preparatory and 240 secondary pupils.

Girls.—325 primary, 156 preparatory and 138 secondary pupils.

There are also two assisted schools in the Colony which provide vocational training—The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School (wood-working) for boys, and the A.M.E. Girls Industrial School (Domestic Science). Courses in carpentry and printing form part of the curriculum at the Albert Academy, one of the assisted boys' secondary schools.

Apart from assisted schools there are two unassisted boys' secondary schools, a preparatory girls' school, and a number of unassisted primary schools.

Domestic science forms an important part of the curriculum in the education of girls. Special examinations are held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas awarded to successful students. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian (Mission) Hospital.

There is a scheme whereby a number of scholarships are awarded to enable boys and girls from primary schools to attend approved secondary schools.

Higher education in Arts and Theology is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University.

Government finances schemes for the training of male teachers in connection with Fourah Bay College and for the training of female teachers at the Women Teachers' Training College, Wilberforce.

An Agricultural Institute at Mabang, managed by the Trustees of the S. B. Thomas Bequest, provides training in agriculture for a limited number of youths from the Colony.

In the Protectorate there are three Government schools; there are also 94 assisted mission schools, which are eligible for capitation, building and equipment grants; teachers' salaries being paid by the missions and supplemented in the case of qualified teachers only by grants from Government. These schools are attended by 7,916 pupils, consisting of 6,009 boys and 1,907 girls.

There is no school in the Protectorate covering the complete secondary course, but the Bo Government School and two or three mission schools have classes of secondary grade.

The Union College at Bunumbu trains teachers and evangelists for the Protestant Missions.

There is also an assisted (Catholic) Industrial School at Mobe, which gives instruction in the trades of boat-building and wood and metal working.

A notable development in Freetown is the quality of the singing in schools. A special music master teaches singing on correct lines, and very good results have been achieved. An annual singing competition is held, at which the greatest keenness is displayed.

Instruction in physical training is supervised by an officer specifically appointed for the purpose. His activities at present are limited to the schools and training colleges in Freetown and the vicinity.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick and the burial of deceased destitute persons remained the same during 1937 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

During 1937 a site was chosen at Kissy for the erection of a building to be known as the King George VI Memorial Hostel for the housing of diseased paupers.

The Memorial Plaque was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Moore, K.C.M.G., during Coronation Celebrations.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about five miles from Freetown.

XI.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads, but there is a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village (6¼ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road three miles in length from Hill Station affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 51 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 32 miles are motorable. The principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface-water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—The total mileage of maintained roads in the Protectorate is 831½. The roads are surfaced with laterite and are for the greater part 16 feet wide.

The majority of the bridges are built with concrete abutments and piers, and steel joists carrying a timber deck, but there still remains a number of timber beam and trestle bridges which are being reconstructed to a standard type, with a 9 feet wide deck, as their condition requires and funds permit. In addition to the above Government-maintained roads, there are chiefs' roads, constructed and maintained by the tribal authorities concerned, which are not usually open to heavy motor vehicles and are sometimes not available for motor traffic in the wet season.

Ferries are used in cases where the width of rivers has rendered the construction of bridges financially impracticable. There are fifteen such ferries in the Protectorate, the pontoons being constructed of timber with one exception which has a steel pontoon. The pontoons are connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled traveller moving on a steel cable-way which is slung between towers on the banks. The pontoon is impelled across the river partly by the action of the current and partly by the boat crew hauling on a light steel hand-line also slung between the banks.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1936 was 311 miles, with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 ins.

Capital expenditure on the railway to the 31st December, 1937, was £1,428,727.

The total revenue of the railway was £207,676, which shows an increase of £7,433 over the figure for the previous year. The revenue includes £950 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure other than capital for the year was £198,761, which shows an increase of £11,160 as compared with 1936. This total includes £57,693 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Working expenditure amounted to £141,068 and gross receipts £207,696.

Passenger journeys in the year were 633,499, an increase of 92,509 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 76,298 against 76,887 in 1936.

	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88	8 11·03	9 7·69	10 3·16	10 8·65
Working expenses per train mile	*5 1·09	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98	7 8·82	6 10·82	6 7·90	7 3·39
Passengers carried ...	438,388	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123	449,513	540,990	633,499
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024	58,866	59,938	71,628	76,887	76,298

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of five miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, 6¼ miles from Freetown, on the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1937 consisted of five passenger vehicles and two lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 253,261 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,198.

The staff employed was:—

European	1
Africans	19
Total	20

Postal Business.

There was considerable increase in postal business during 1937. Postal business was conducted from 17 post offices and 49 postal agencies, money-order business from 23, and postal order business from 51 offices.

The total revenue collected was £34,660 as against £24,989 in the previous year. Of this amount, £25,318 was derived from direct postal revenue, £7,696 from Customs duty on parcels, and £1,646 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds, including 104,100 registered articles, dealt with during the year was 2,271,900, as compared with 2,209,400 in 1936. Money-order transactions increased from 3,843 (value £22,103) in 1936 to 4,348 (value £25,020) in 1937.

The total number of postal-orders issued during the year was 64,308 valued at £40,576, and the number of postal-orders paid was 52,386 valued at £33,447, as compared with the previous year, viz., orders issued 57,726 valued at £35,448; orders paid 46,836 valued at £29,974.

The parcel post transactions showed an increase, 39,093 parcels being handled as against 36,516 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (with Great Britain only) 12,190 parcels were received (value £22,107) as compared with 10,526 (value £19,104) in 1936.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu and Bauya to Kamabai with various subsidiary country lines throughout the Protectorate—totalling 789¾ miles.

Telephones.

The Freetown, Hill Station and Cline Town telephone service comprise 392¾ miles with a traffic control telephone line, Water Street to Pendembu (up country) of 455 miles making a total of 848¾ miles.

Broadcast Relay Service.

The Broadcast Service was inaugurated in May, 1934, and is owned and controlled by Government.

It is a relay service which operates on the rediffusion principle. The equipment, consisting of rectifying apparatus, two short-wave battery operated receivers and six power amplifiers, together with studio and gramophone equipment, is of the latest design. The power amplifiers are capable of giving a combined undistorted output of 300 watts.

Directional reflector aerials are used and are erected 500 ft. above sea level.

The station relays as a standard programme the whole of Transmissions II and IV in the Empire programme from Daventry on wavelengths of 13, 16, 19, 25 and 31 metres. All transmissions from Daventry are receivable at good signal strength in normal circumstances.

The number of subscribers up to date is over 750.

Cables and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and American broadcasting on suitable short-wavelengths.

Shipping.

There was an increase of one hundred and nine (109) in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 254,658. Of a total of 2,740,408 tons entered, 64·66 per cent. was British, 9·81 German, 3·08 Italian, 6·14 French, 5·95 American and 4·20 Netherlands.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports:—

STEAMSHIP SERVICES, 1937.

Line.	*Destination.*	*Passenger or Cargo.*	*Frequency of Calls.*	*Mail contract.*	*Other feature of the contract, and other remarks.*
Elder Dempster Lines, Limited, Liverpool.	Liverpool ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks) plus supplementary end of summer.	Liverpool and West African Colonies	Colony pays a proportion of the subsidy for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and West African Colonies.
„ „ „	„ ...	Cargo	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		Cargo vessels also have passenger accommodation usually for 12.
„ „ „	London	„	13 (one each 4 weeks).		
„ „ „	Continent ...	„	18 (1 each 3 weeks).		Extra services to United Kingdom, Continent and United States of America put in as inducement offered.
„ „ „	New York ...	„	13 (one each 4 weeks).		Passenger services also accept cargo at this port.
„ „ „	Canada—South Africa.	„	12 (1 monthly)		
„ „ „	Coast Ports ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		
„ „ „	„ ...	Cargo	52 (1 each week)		
„ „ „	Hull	„	1 every 4 weeks.		
United Africa Company Steamers	Liverpool and West African ports.	2nd Class cargo boats	Twice monthly.		Limited passenger accommodation.
Navigazione Libera Triestina (Italian Line).	Genoa	2nd Class cargo boats.	Once a month.		
Sierra Leone Development Co....	United Kingdom	Iron Ore	About once every 6 weeks.		
American West African Line, Inc., New York.	New York ...	Passenger and cargo	18 round voyages calling outward and Homeward	Mail contract with U.S. Government out-	

American West African Line, Inc., New York—*cont.*	U.S. Gulf ports ...	Passenger and cargo	5 round voyages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.	Mail contract with U.S. Government outwards.
Holland West-Afrika Lijn, Amsterdam	Le Havre, Amsterdam and Hamburg.	Passenger	2 monthly (outward). 2 monthly (Homeward).	Mail contract with Netherlands Government.
” ” ”	Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Hamburg.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	
” ” ”	Coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	
Woermann Linie	Southampton, Boulogne s/mer, Hamburg and Continental ports.	Passenger	2 monthly.	Mail contract with Spanish Government.
” ”	Hamburg and Continental ports.	Cargo	1 monthly.	” ”
” ”	Coast ports ...	Passenger	1 monthly.	” ”
” ”	Coast ports ...	Cargo	1 monthly.	” ”
Cie. Generale de Navigation a vapeur (Cie. Fabre), and Cie. Marseilles de Navigation a Vapeur (Cie. Fraissinet) combined services.	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	2 monthly (1 Homeward and 1 outward).	Mail contract with the Sierra Leone Government.
” ” ”	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	1 every 3 weeks (average).	
Societe Navale de l'ouest Chargeurs Reunis.	Coast ports ...	Cargo (combined services).	1 monthly (average).	

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about four tons and motor launches with a capacity of about ten tons.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony, viz., Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima and Mano Salija.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Canalization of Streams.—The year's programme consisted of street drainage. Pademba Road was reconstructed and a portion of Circular Road between the Government Model School and Pademba Road. Pavements were constructed on either side of Pademba Road and it is hoped that their provision will be a safeguard to pedestrians and leave an unobstructed road for vehicular traffic.

Peninsula Circular Road.—Construction of this road was commenced in October. It consists of 43 miles of new road and 18 miles of reconditioning, the latter being the existing road between Waterloo and Freetown. The earthworks were found to be considerably heavier than anticipated due to the enormous amount of norite rock encountered and by the end of the year only four miles of road had been completed. When completed the road will be the most picturesque in the Colony.

European Hospital, Hill Station.—Construction was commenced in April and was carried on throughout the year. The building embodies many changes from those previously constructed in the Colony. The walls are of concrete bricks and all windows and the majority of doors are of steel. Water borne sewerage and consequently modern sanitary fittings are being supplied. When completed the hospital will house 18 beds and an isolation block of two wards is also to be constructed to house two beds.

New Maternity Hospital.—Construction of this building was commenced in October. The building will be of concrete bricks and steel doors and windows will be used wherever possible. When completed the hospital will house 40 beds and accommodation will be provided for midwives.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power decreasing to 2d. according to consumption. In certain cases special tariffs have been approved for other than private consumers, each having a favourable decreasing rate of charge in a manner similar to that for users of domestic appliances. Such special tariffs are based upon the various different average consumptions of current of each consumer.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. A minimum charge of 5s. per month in respect of each connexion was instituted on 1st January, 1937. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court* (*Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap.* 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows:—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court."

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " The District Court."

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than

persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as " Joint Judges " to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision in all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, in 1937.

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons discharged.*	*Committed for trial.*
Assault and Battery ...	37	113	62	51	—
Harbour Offences ...	25	30	30	—	—
Stowaways	—	24	24	—	—
Customs Offences ...	37	37	34	3	—
Housebreaking ...	26	15	7	3	5
Burglary	9	5	—	—	5
Larceny	374	399	319	76	4
Larceny from Ship ...	7	7	7	—	—
Public Health Offences	78	92	88	4	—
Shopbreaking	9	—	—	—	9
Larceny from a Person	36	42	31	11	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	3	3	3	—	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence	—	7	5	2	—
Disorderly conduct ...	73	150	120	30	—
Fighting	22	44	41	3	—
Drunk	12	12	12	—	—
Wounding	19	23	14	5	4
Totals	767	1,003	797	188	27

Juveniles.

Larceny	33	33	33	—	—
Assault and Battery ...	2	2	2	—	—
Throwing Stones ...	3	3	3	—	—
Committing Nuisance...	3	3	3	—	—
Unlawful Possession ...	2	2	2	—	—
Acting as a Guide ...	—	7	7	—	—
Totals	43	50	50	—	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1937.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number of persons imprisoned.*	*Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.*	*Number of persons condemned.*	*Number of persons discharged.*
Bombali ...	4	1	—	—	3
Karene ...	2	2	—	—	—
Kenema ...	1	1	—	—	—
Kailahun ...	1	1	—	—	—
Kono ...	4	2	1	—	1
Koinadugu ...	1	1	—	—	—
Bo	1	1	—	—	—
Moyamba ...	3	2	—	—	1
Port Loko ...	9	4	—	—	5
Tonkolili ...	11	5	1	—	5
Pujehun ...	2	1	—	—	1
Bonthe ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	39	21	2	—	16

Police.

During the year 1937, the strength of the Police Force was increased by one 1st Class, one 2nd Class and two 3rd Class constables.

Prisons.

There are now twelve prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows:—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons; Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni, Batkanu, Tonkolili,

Southern Province, local prisons; Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Masanki, Sefadu.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the year 1937 was as follows:—

Males	934
Females	11
Juvenile adults	14
Juvenile offenders	—

The total daily average number in custody was 237.

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the year 1937 was:—

Males	1,226
Females	3

The daily average in custody was 138·361.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was four, compared with three in 1936.

Industries.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and maintaining fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of rice-milling, tailoring, tarpaulin, and mattress making, bread-making and carpentry.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1937 were:—

The Regulation of Street Trading Ordinance, 1937,
The Carriage of Goods by Road Ordinance, 1937,
The Tonkolili Agreement Ordinance, 1937,
The Tribal Authorities Ordinance, 1937,
The Chiefdom Tax Ordinance, 1937,
The Chiefdom Treasuries Ordinance, 1937,
The Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1937,
The Companies Ordinance, 1937,
The Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force (General Service) Ordinance, 1937,
The Rural Areas Ordinance, 1937.

The Regulation of Street Trading Ordinance, 1937, gives effect to the recommendations of a Committee appointed by Government to consider the question of regulating and controlling street trading in the City of Freetown. Under the measure, the Governor in Council is empowered, after consultation with the City Council of Freetown, to prohibit the sale or exposure for sale of all goods in any specified street or part of such streets in the Municipal Areas of Freetown, subject to any exceptions which might be contained in the Order. An exemption for hawkers and pedlars from this general prohibition is contained in the Ordinance. A wide rule-making power has also been incorporated in the measure in order to deal with various matters connected with such trading.

The Carriage of Goods by Road Ordinance, 1937, has been enacted in order to control road competition against the Sierra Leone Government Railway. The Railway has been suffering from a serious loss of revenue from competition of this nature in certain areas for some years and it has been found impossible to devise a satisfactory form of control by means of ferry or road tolls or by any alteration in railway rates. A programme of road construction has and is still being carried out in the Protectorate in order to improve communications, and it was essential that Government should have some power to restrict wasteful competition. Certain of the existing roads provided important facilities for road traffic and deprived the Railway of a considerable amount of freight which it would ordinarily have carried. Similarly, some of the roads which are now under construction or are likely to be constructed in the near future will probably prove exceedingly detrimental to the Railway traffic. The measure has been designed therefore to prohibit the carriage of certain classes of goods and produce along any such roads, with the minimum restriction compatible with the object in view. Certain of these roads and the classes of goods which are prohibited from being carried thereon have been scheduled in the Ordinance and the Governor-in-Council is given general power to alter this schedule. Certain special classes of goods are in any event exempted from the operation of the Ordinance. Power has also been reserved to permit the carriage of scheduled goods over scheduled roads in special circumstances. Legislation to much the same effect exists already in the Gold Coast Colony and in one or two of the East African Dependencies.

The Tonkolili Agreement Ordinance, 1937, was designed to ratify and confirm an Agreement made between the Crown Agents for the Colonies on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, with a view to regulating the mining of iron ore and other minerals in the Tonkolili area of the Protectorate.

The Tribal Authorities Ordinance, 1937, provides for the organization of chiefdom administration, and marks an important stage in the development of the Protectorate. It provides for the government of natives of the Protectorate through their own chiefs and endeavours to preserve and strengthen the administrative machinery which has been created by the natives themselves and the institutions which have grown out of their own traditions. To a considerable extent it is an enabling measure, providing as it does wide powers for the issue of orders and bye-laws by a Tribal Authority, but at the same time adequate measures are taken to ensure that there shall be no abuse of those powers. Under the measure, Tribal Authorities, to whom the provisions of the Ordinance are applied, will continue to be guided by the District Commissioners but they will in future have a greater measure of self-government. The enactment was based to a very considerable extent on the Native Administration Ordinances of Nigeria and Tanganyika and no special legislative features require individual mention.

The Chiefdom Tax Ordinance, 1937. This enactment is to a considerable extent complementary to the Tribal Authorities Ordinance, 1937, and is therefore an essential part of the scheme whereby it is hoped that Tribal Authorities will, under guidance, be enabled to achieve a certain measure of local government. The Ordinance provides, in those Chiefdoms in which Native

Treasuries have been established, for the imposition of a comprehensive local tax to take the place of any taxes, tributes, customary levies or labour which were formerly received by the Chiefs and other native authorities. The provisions for the assessment, payment and collection of the tax are similar in many respects to those relating to the collection of house tax under Part IV of the Protectorate Ordinance, 1933. The Governor is given a wide discretion to exempt persons from the payment of this tax and an extensive rule making power to carry out the objects of the measure has also been included.

The Chiefdom Treasuries Ordinance, 1937, has been enacted to provide for the establishment, constitution and management of Chiefdom Treasuries in the Protectorate, and is also another measure of native administration reform. The Ordinance provides for the establishment of a treasury for the reception of chiefdom funds in any chiefdom, or, where it is deemed desirable, in any group of chiefdoms. When such a treasury has been established proper accounts of revenue and expenditure will be kept and all accounts will be submitted to audit. The Tribal Authority will be guided and controlled by a District Commissioner.

The Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force (General Service) Ordinance, 1937.—This Ordinance, which is supplementary to the Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force Ordinance, 1935, has been enacted in consequence of an Order of His Majesty in Council entitled, " The Sierra Leone Naval Defence Order, 1937," which approved provision being made for the placing at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal Navy, officers and men of the Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force and ships of war maintained by the Colony. This measure now enables the Governor-in-Council to make provision for all the aforesaid matters and it also provides for training the officers and men of the Force outside the territorial waters of the Colony.

The Rural Areas Ordinance, 1937, has been introduced in order to make provision for the better administration of the Colony Peninsula with the exception of that portion of the Colony which is included in the Municipal Area of Freetown. Briefly, the measure makes provision for (*a*) the division of the Police and Headquarters Judicial Districts of the Colony into Rural Areas, each Rural Area to be administered by a Rural Commissioner acting under the District Commissioner of the district, and also for the subdivision of Rural Areas into Urban Divisions; (*b*) the establishment of Rural Advisory Committees for each Rural Area and the institution of a form of suffrage for the election of members thereto; (*c*) the appointment and constitution of a Rural Areas Council which shall have power to take all necessary measures for the health, order and good government of the district, and the establishment of a Rural

Areas Fund; (*d*) the imposition of all necessary taxation; (*e*) the establishment of an Urban Division Fund to provide for special services in Urban Divisions; and (*f*) the regulation of street trading and the erection of buildings, the establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, water supplies, markets, slaughter-house, etc., and the various other matters for which it is necessary to provide for the purposes of the efficient administration of a local Government Area. The measure replaces the Headmen Ordinance, 1924, and abrogates the provisions of the House Tax (Colony) Ordinance, 1924, in respect of the Freetown Police and Headquarters District.

Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1937, is designed to make provision for the better supervision of Native Courts and for the establishment and constitution of Native Appeal Courts. Owing to the multiplicity of minor Courts in the Protectorate Chiefdoms power has been taken in the measure to suppress them when such suppression would cause no hardship.

The Companies Ordinance, 1937, repeals and replaces the Companies Ordinance, 1924, and is designed to bring the law relating to Trading Companies into conformity with recent Imperial legislation and modern Colonial enactments. The law, previously in force, as contained in the Companies Ordinance, 1924, was the law in force in England in 1906. The present measure has been based almost entirely on the Imperial Companies Act of 1929.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with nineteen agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1937, was £80,601 19s. 2d.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on the 31st December, 1937, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows:—

		£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1937			285,176
Revenue, 1937		1,025,709	
Expenditure, 1937	919,266		
Add Depreciation of Investments ...	7,734		
		927,000	
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure			98,709
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1937			383,885

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1933	655,529	691,686
1934	598,839	603,208
1935	678,978	585,574
1936	969,668	879,370*
1937	1,025,709	919,266

* Includes £208,277 transferred to Reserve Funds.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1937, was £1,718,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £519,461.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1937, amounted to £967,718 made up as follows:—

	£
Reserve and surplus Funds invested...	489,971
Other investments	116,159
Stores	16,113
Loans	26,047
Advances	48,691
Cash	270,737

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1937 were:—

	£
Customs	598,397
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse dues ...	17,506
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	44,324
Taxes	279,868

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. (Preferential) and 25 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an *ad valorem* duty is levied of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 40 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are: cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d. per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey ¾d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 1½d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, 1¼d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2½d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); fish—dried, salted, smoked or pickled, not in tins, jars or bottles, 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 5s. per 100 lb. (General); flour, free (Preferential) and 1s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 0s. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, free (Preferential) and 4s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 7d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 8d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil, 2d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per imperial gallon (General); onions, free (Preferential) and ¼d. (General); potatoes, ¼d. per lb. (Preferential) and ½d. per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. 9d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk piece-goods, 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 4d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 8d. per lb (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 6s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) to 8s. 8d. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, £1 a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 1s. 3d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wines, spirits, petroleum products, tobacco, arms and ammunition, gunpowder, West African products (excluding Liberian coffee) and manufactures, potatoes, onions and rice are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1937 amounted to £1,052.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows:—

> Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.
>
> Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House Tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £4.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—No funds or staff were available for topographical surveys during the year. The position as regards the Topographical Survey of the Protectorate that was completed in 1931 and which comprises 109 field sheets on the 1/62,500 scale remains the same as before. Only 45 of the sheets have been printed and published. The remaining 64 sheets are reproduced and issued in sunprint form. There was an exceptional demand for unpublished sheets and although 168 copies were supplied against 105 for last year, orders for over 400 sunprint copies were outstanding at the end of the year. A new layout map of Sierra Leone on the 1/100,000 scale is in course of preparation.

Cadastral Survey.—The number of mining surveys executed exceeded that for the previous year. One hundred and fifty-eight surveys comprising 136 Mining Rights, 10 Exclusive Prospecting Licences and 2 Mining Leases were completed. In connexion with this work 108 miles of theodolite traverse were run, 1,568 beacons co-ordinated and 68 azimuths observed. The area covered by this work amounted to 19,842 acres against 20,766 for 1936, the smaller acreage being due to the greater number of Mining Rights in proportion to the total applications surveyed. The number of outstanding surveys at the end of the year was 102 against 219 for the previous year.

The main triangulation of the Colony was broken down over an area of about 20 square miles around Regent and Bathurst and eight new trig points established to provide the Public Works Department with a framework for surveys in connexion with the " New Freetown Water Supply ". Five miles of levelling was done by the department in connexion with this water supply.

A theodolite survey of about 200 acres of land, over which action under the Unoccupied Lands Ordinance was subsequently taken by the Lands Branch, was completed at Benguema.

An extension of the Freetown Town Survey which was completed in 1927 was asked for by the Government to enable steps to be taken to ensure the orderly development of the rapidly expanding building areas, south and south-west of the city by town planning. Five new sheets on the 1/1,250 scale were taken up in July. By the end of the year two of them were completed with levels and the remaining three were in various stages of completion.

A detailed contoured survey on the 1/1,250 scale of the Congo River Valley was commenced in October to ascertain whether a new road to form a short cut to Hill Station was a practical proposition and to provide plans for a layout scheme of building plots for commercial firms. This survey which will cover an area of nearly two square miles was nearly completed by the end of the year.

An area adjoining Murray Town was contoured and a plan of a proposed lay-out scheme prepared for the extension of the village.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government departments during the year amounted to £112 6s. 6d. Sale of maps to the public realized £61 12s. 6d. Revenue from mining surveys amounted to £3,299 11s. 0d.

Geological Survey.—Further progress was made in the geological survey of the mining areas of the Protectorate on the scale 1/62,500, and it is hoped soon to be able to publish geological maps of some of the more interesting localities. Some reconnaissance geological survey was carried out in the Northern Province. Numerous rock and mineral specimens were identified and reported upon for the mining community. A petrological microscope and rock cutting and grinding apparatus were purchased and a commencement was made in the preparation in Sierra Leone of thin sections of rock and mineral specimens for their identification under the petrological microscope. The officer in charge of the geological survey was seconded to the Provincial Administration during a temporary shortage of officers of that department and acted as District Commissioner, Bombali, from June to November, 1937.

Imperial Institute.

During 1937 information was furnished to enquirers regarding oil palm fibre suitable for making special grades of paper; sources of supply of piassava fibre; preparation of the essential oil of limes by hand-pressing (écuelling) and by distillation; the commercial valuation of mangrove bark and the geographical features, climatic conditions and economic possibilities of Sierra Leone. Information was also supplied concerning the following minerals: iron ore, ilmenite, diamonds and bauxite.

Two new dioramas, constructed in the Imperial Institute studios were completed and placed on exhibition: one illustrating iron ore mining and the other showing alluvial diamond mining.

The show-cases and exhibits have been rearranged; statistical charts relating to trade in the principal export products have been brought up to date.

APPENDIX.

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.	£	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription, inland	1	5	0
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription, Overseas	1	10	0

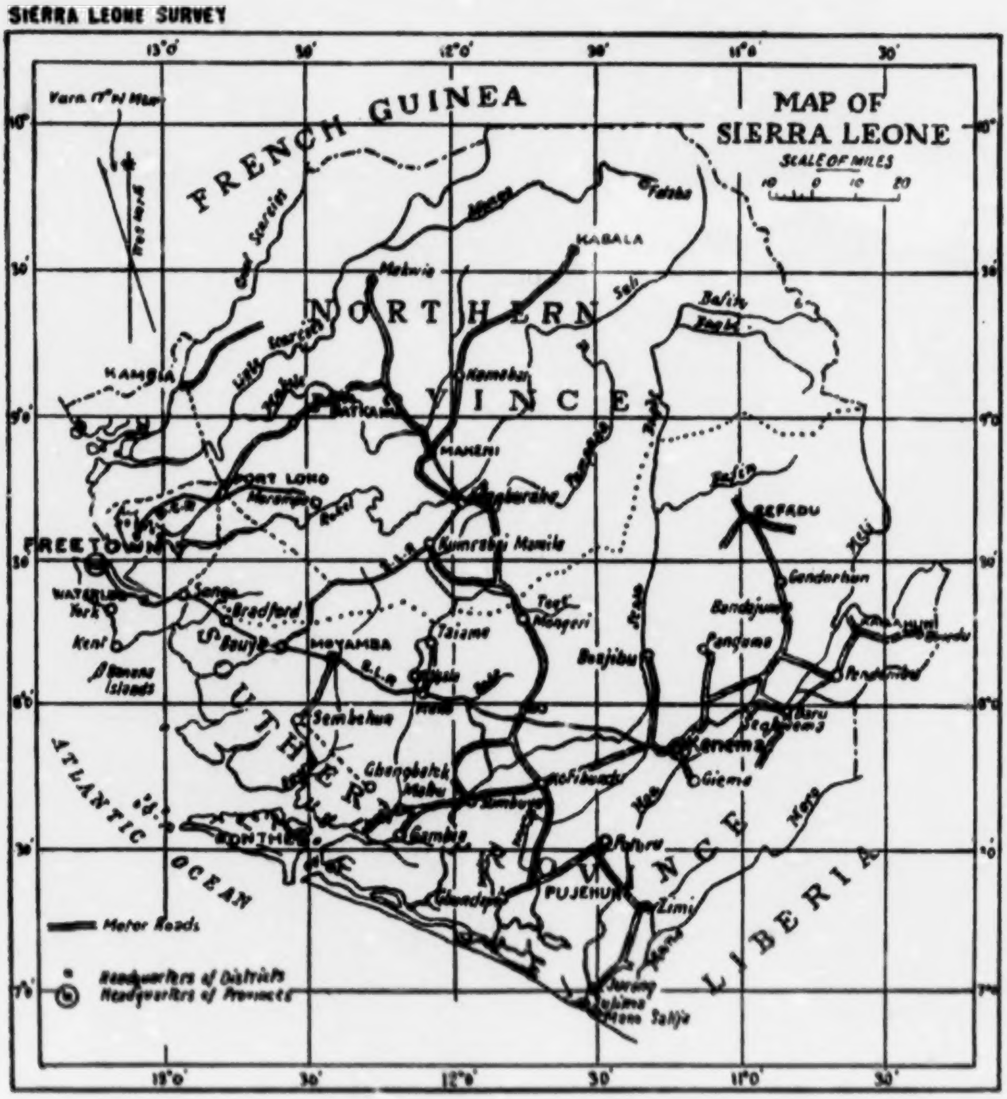
	For current or previous year.		*For any prior year*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, single copies, inclusive of "*Special Supplements*" only		6	1	0
Trade Supplement (postage 1d. extra)		3		6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, &c., not exceeding—				
8 pages		4		8
9–16 "		6	1	0
17–32 "		9	1	6
33–48 "	1	3	2	6
49–64 "	1	6	3	0
65–96 "	2	0	4	0
Exceeding 96 pages	2	6	5	0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 each		12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 each		12	6	1	2
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year ...		1	6		2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent numbers, each			6		2
Sierra Leone Studies (abridged edition of Nos. 1, 2, 3)		1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7–18 and 20, each ...		1	0		2
Handbook of the Temne Language		5	0		3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language		10	6		3
Handbook on the Tse-tse Fly (Austen)		5	0		6
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by Sir H. C. Luke, Kt.		8	6		4
Beri-beri and the Freetown Prison		10	6		6
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vols. 1 & 4, by D. A. Bannerman	1	2	6	1	0

	Price.			Postage.	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville		2	6		1½
Census Report, 1931		5	0		6
Tide Table, 1938			4		1
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon		1	0		2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone ...		1	4		2
History of Royal West African Frontier Force, by Lieut. R. P. M. Davis		7	6		2½
A Limba-English and English-Limba Dictionary, by Mary Lane Clarke		5	0		4
Crook's History of the Colony of Sierra Leone, Western Africa		1	6		4
Specimen of Languages, by N. W. Thomas ...		4	0		3
Report of the Native Administration to the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, by Mr. J. S. Fenton, O.B.E.		1	6		1
Customs Trade Report, 1936		5	0		5


SIERRA LEONE SURVEY
MAP OF
SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
13°0'
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30'
11°0'
30'
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7°0'
Varn. 17° W Mag
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
KAMBIA
FREETOWN
PORT LOKO
BATKANU
MAKENI
KABALA
MOYAMBA
BONTHE
PUJEHUN
KENEMA
KAILAHUN
PENDEMBU
DEFADU
Magburaka
Kumrabai Mamila
Waterloo
York
Kent
Banana Islands
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
Sembehun
Taiama
Mano
Bo
Baiima
Daru
Segbwema
Blama
Giema
Bandajuma
Panguma
Gandorhun
Boajibu
Mongeri
Gbangbatok
Mobai
Sumbuya
Gambia
Gbundapi
Potoru
Zimi
Sulima
Mano Salija
Falaba
Makwie
Kamabai
Marampa
Motor Roads
Headquarters of Districts
Headquarters of Provinces

NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province are at Freetown.

(13352—48) Wt. 2723—4140 625 12/38 P. St. G. 377

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1938

Report and Proceedings [Colonial No. 156] 2s. ( )

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E. [Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Reports by Mr. J. S. Neill and Duncan Cook, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. [Colonial No. 155] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

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Report of Committee [Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
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Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 158] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 132] 6d. (7d.)

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CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERLIS
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
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S.O. Code No. 58–273

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1916

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

SIERRA LEONE, 1938

(For Report for 1936 see No. 1829 (Price 2s. 0d.) and for Report for 1937 see No. 1873 (Price 1s. 3d.).)

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1939
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Statement to accompany the Estimates for Colonial and Middle Eastern Services, 1939 [Cmd. 6023] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)

NUTRITION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Economic Advisory Council. Report of Committee.

1st Report—Part I. [Cmd. 6050] 3s. (3s. 4d.)

1st Report—Part II. Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire [Cmd. 6051] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A comprehensive Survey, including Memoranda on the Economic Situation of the individual Dependencies and on the Products of the Colonial Empire

Survey for 1936 [Colonial No. 149] £1 7s. 6d. (£1 8s. 2d.)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1938, to 31st March, 1939 [Cmd. 6062] 9d. (10d.)

LOCAL LEGISLATURES IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Return showing the composition, etc. [H. of C. 169, 1937/38] 6d. (7d.

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

HIGHER EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA

Report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies [Colonial No. 142] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Summary of Legislation as at the end of December, 1936 [Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A Survey [Colonial No. 124] 6d. (7d.)

EAST AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, AMANI

Eleventh Annual Report [Colonial No. 167] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE, 1938

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55′ and 10° 00′ parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30′ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or " orchard bush " country.

Climate.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity, during the greater part of the year. The rainy season lasts from May to October, and the wettest months are July, August and September. This season, which is the period of the south-west monsoon, is preceded and followed by thunderstorms, locally known as tornadoes. The general course of these storms is from east to west, and they give rise to violent electric effects. Their usual duration is from 20 to 50 minutes and the most severe usually occur in the evening, or early hours of the morning.

In December, January and February, the north-east trades prevail. In the middle of that period a very dry wind, known as the " Harmattan," blows steadily and is accompanied by dust haze. At this time there may be hot days, but the nights are often cool.

In general, surface winds are light or moderate, exceeding a mean speed of 20 miles per hour only in thunderstorms.

Visibility is mainly good except during heavy rain when it may fall to 25 yards. During the Harmattan, inland, it falls at times to 50 yards. Along the coast, it is in general one to three miles, rarely falling below 500 to 1,000 yards. Fog is a rare occurrence.

The absolute maximum temperature recorded by meteorological observers during 1938 was 104° F. at Batkanu in March and April. An absolute minimum temperature of 56° F. was recorded at Marampa during February. At Freetown the absolute maximum was 92° F. in March and April, and the absolute minimum was 68° F. in June. The annual maximum and minimum mean temperatures were 86·3° F. and 72·6° F. respectively, computed from observations made during the last 20 years at Tower Hill, Freetown, 171 feet above mean sea-level.

The annual average rainfall for Freetown is 150·53 inches and the monthly means over a period of 57 years (1882-1938) are:—

	ins.		*ins.*		*ins.*		*ins.*
January,	0·34	April,	3·53	July,	34·84	October,	11·73
February,	0·27	May,	9·96	August,	35·20	November,	5·73
March,	1·08	June,	19·50	September,	27·02	December,	1·33

The rainfall is greatest on the coast and decreases inland as illustrated by the annual averages from the following rainfall stations:—

	ins.
Freetown (coast)	150·53
Bonthe (coast)	146·49
Kabala (about 200 miles inland)	90·55
Segbwema (about 80 miles inland)	96·76

In 1938 all rainfall stations' records showed annual total falls above normal except at Freetown (22 inches), Hill Station (17 inches), and Batkanu (6 inches).

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the "Liberated Africans" who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely, the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

That part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, and the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, and of York Island. It is administered by these three authorities:—

(1) The Freetown City Council.
(2) The Rural Areas Administration.
(3) The Sherbro Judicial District Board.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the " City Council of Freetown " pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital. The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

Rural Areas Administration.—The Rural Areas comprise the whole of the Colony Peninsula, with the exception of the Freetown Municipality. The locality is divided into four areas, each of which is administered by a salaried Rural Commissioner employed by the Rural Areas Administration, assisted by an elected Advisory Committee of five members. The Rural Commissioners are subordinate to the President, Rural Areas Council, who, for purposes of general administration, is also the District Commissioner of the Headquarters District who lives at Waterloo. Unlike other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is not subordinate to a Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

The Rural Areas Council is the local governing body for the administration of the Colony Peninsula. In addition to the President, it consists of one member elected from each of the Rural Areas, four members of the Civil Service nominated by the Governor, and one other person also nominated by the Governor. Its functions approximate to those of an English County Council. It prepares annual estimates for the consideration of the Governor in Council, and has power to acquire and hold property, and to take all measures necessary for the health, order and good government of the Rural Areas.

For judicial purposes the Rural Areas are divided into two Magisterial districts, viz.:—

(*a*) The Police District already mentioned which comprises the Wilberforce and Kissy Areas in addition to the Freetown Municipality;

(*b*) The Headquarters Judicial District, comprising Waterloo and York areas.

The Police Magistrate is Magistrate of the Police District while the District Commissioner is *ex officio* Magistrate of the Headquarters Judicial District, although the Police Magistrate is an additional Magistrate of that district and performs the greater part of the judicial functions.

Sherbro Judicial District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Island, York Island, and the 14 following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Baiama Krim, Bekowa, Bendu, Bum, Cha, Imperi, Jong, Kakpenda, Kemo, Kwako Krim, Mesi Krim, Nongoba Bullom, Sogbini and Yawma, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of the Sherbro Judicial District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe (on Sherbro Island) and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and mainland and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters Judicial District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sitia—and the 14 mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coastline of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years, it was for political reasons, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the

Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

(*a*) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;
(*b*) the Districts of which they consist; and
(*c*) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each district is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of adminstrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and distinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any " palaver " which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

Native Administrations.—The initiation of a system of Native Administration in the early months of 1937 was extended during the year in review and about 50 Chiefdoms containing half the population of the Protectorate have adopted that form of local government. The Tribal Authorities Ordinance, No. 8 of 1937, constituted the office of Tribal Authorities, which are based on existing Chiefdoms. The Chiefdom Treasuries Ordinance, No. 11 of 1937, made provision for the establishment of Chiefdom Treasuries, and the Chiefdom Tax Ordinance, No. 10 of 1937, imposed an annual Chiefdom Tax in those Chiefdoms or groups of Chiefdoms for which a treasury had been established. This tax takes the place of the tribute or customary levies in cash, kind, or farm labour fomerly paid to the Paramount Chiefs. Certain amendments to the Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance No. 40 of 1932, were also sanctioned in 1937, which not only brought Native Court procedure more into line with that of other Colonies but also introduced Group Native Appeal Courts. These changes have been favourably received and it is noticed already that the natives affected by them evince a growing interest in local expenditure and in the framing of their Chiefdom budgets.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, a fortiori, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy. The introduction of Native Administration or local government in some chiefdoms entails a degree of supervision in their initial stages especially in matters regarding the Chiefdom Treasuries and Courts.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, derived from (*a*) house tax and (*b*) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboards; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 was 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

Race.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total Population.*
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives ...	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics...	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census was 1,672,058, of which 796,392 were males and 875,666 were females, and consisted of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate was 231, of which 173 were males and 58 were females. Of this total 142 were British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which were included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate was 772—577 males and 195 females. These included 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate numbered 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These included Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans numbered 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case at the 1931 census.

Nationality or Tribe.	*Colony.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of Total African Population.*
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives ...	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population was as follows:—

	Freetown.	*Colony other than Freetown.*	*Protectorate.*	*Total.*
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives ...	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
			Total African population ...	1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1938, 243 Syrians entered and 215 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,792 immigrants and 2,323 emigrants. The total numbers of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects were 176 and 160 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for (*a*) births and (*b*) deaths for the Colony for 1938 are as follows:—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
(*a*)	1,273	1,263	2,536
(*b*)	1,403	1,180	2,583

Infantile Mortality—

Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Rate per 1,000*
281	271	552	217

These figures are of little actual statistical value. The census of 1931 showed the population of the Colony to be 96,422 persons of whom 55,358 lived in Freetown.

It is not possible to calculate the present population with any accuracy.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1938 are:—

	Free-town.	*Village areas. (Colony).*	*Head-quarters District. (Colony).*	*Bonthe (Colony).*	*Protec-torate.*	*Total.*
Christian	171	24	12	9	36	252
Civil	2	—	—	—	1	3
Mohammedan ...	15	1	—	—	—	16
Totals ...	188	25	12	9	37	271

Only figures for Christian and Civil marriages are available for the Protectorate. There is no registration of marriage by " Native Custom."

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

There was no great change in the general health of the population. The appended comparative table of hospital attendances is not, of course, an accurate index of the prevalence of each disease mentioned, particularly in the case of communicable diseases, from which the population suffers the most disability and to which it has a varying degree of resistance.

Disease.	*1937*	*1938*
Malaria	10,232	11,132
Yaws	9,312	7,[illegible]30
Acute Rheumatism	—	7
Chronic Rheumatism	9,479	9,213
Hemiplegia	134	125
Conjunctivitis	951	1,091
Affections of the ear	1,289	1,091
Haemorrhoids	99	138
Lymphadenitis (bubo non-specific)	724	758
Coryza	1,328	1,463
Acute Bronchitis	6,351	7,362
Chronic Bronchitis	7,358	7,420
Asthma	203	235
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,826	2,110
Gastritis	395	572
Dyspepsia	4,074	3,380
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,793	1,932
Ankylostomiasis	395	555
Hernia	994	1,032
Constipation	8,649	11,112
Acute Nephritis	81	133
Schistosomiasis	72	47
Epididymitis	50	44
Orchitis	246	284
Hydrocele	327	315
Abscess	731	945
Scabies	1,792	1,962
Eczema	393	402
Osteitis	417	502
Arthritis	1,553	2,280
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,350	1,457
Fracture	251	250
Other external injuries	6,169	5,385
Asthenia	845	707
Syphilis	566	1,469
Gonorrhoea	3,172	3,708
Avitaminosis	2,186	2,624

Mortality.

The figures mentioned below apply to Freetown including Cline Town and are only moderately accurate. The Protectorate figures are not available.

The number of deaths registered in Freetown on medical certificates was 468 corresponding to 33·9 per cent. of total registrations. The absence of a Medical Officer or Dispenser in a number of areas in the rest of the Colony renders the figures from such places outside Freetown unreliable.

Principal Causes of Deaths, 1938.

Causes.	*Freetown (including Cline Town), 1,378.* *Number.*	*Percentage.*
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	296	21·4
Malaria	120	8·7
Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	110	7·9
Tuberculosis (all forms)	102	7·4
Senility	77	5·5
Prematurity	53	3·8
Nephritis	42	3·0
Valvular disease	40	2·9
Hemiplegia	22	1·5
Congenital Debility	22	1·5
Convulsions	11	·7
Septicæmia	11	·7

Provision for Treatment.

The Government hospital facilities within the Colony consist of the Connaught Hospital, Freetown, and the Government Hospital Bonthe. A comparison of the figures in the past two years is given below.

	1937.	*1938.*
Connaught Hospital:—		
In-patients	2,512	2,760
Out-patients—new cases	17,676	15,840
Subsequent attendances	108,832	80,421
Operations	2,128	2,526
Bonthe Hospital:—		
In-patients	466	499
Out-patients—new cases	4,080	5,484
Subsequent attendances	17,054	21,292

The Protectorate Hospital, Pujehun, is now being reconstructed.

Particulars of attendances, etc., at Protectorate Hospitals of a new type are as follows:—

Protectorate Hospital Bo, Southern Province—

	1937.	*1938.*
In-patients	354	400
Out-patients—new cases	4,046	4,288
Subsequent attendances	16,206	17,863

Protectorate Hospital Moyamba, Southern Province—

In patients	163	150
Out-patients—new cases	2,460	3,322
Subsequent attendances	4,344	5,321

Protectorate Hospital Kailahun, Southern Province:—

In-patients	—	182
Out-patients new cases	—	2,108
Subsequent attendances	—	9,899

Protectorate Hospital Makeni, Northern Province—

	1937.	*1938.*
In-patients	239	281
Out-patients—new cases	4,479	4,641
Subsequent attendances	11,692	9,893

Protectorate Hospital Port Loko, Northern Province—

	1937.	*1938.*
In-patients	205	182
Out-patients—new cases	4,105	2,108
Subsequent attendances	12,540	9,899

Dispensaries.—There are now eight in the Colony and 16 in the Protectorate.

Ante-natal, Maternity and Child Welfare work is being maintained, and the new hospital is nearing completion.

	Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.		*Princess Christian Mission Hospital.*	
	1937.	*1938.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Ante-natal attendances	6,414	7,020	904	1,149
Labour cases admitted	537	545	25	48
Health visits	9,325	17,722	3,383	16,729
Infant Welfare clinic attendances ...	13,601	13,648	4,180	5,354

Public Health Note.

The progress of sanitation is being maintained.

Smallpox.—A table is subjoined showing the total of cases and deaths for 1938 and the number of vaccinations carried out. The figures in 1937 were 134, 1 and 37,952.

Area.	*Number of cases discovered.*	*Number of Deaths.*	*Number of Vaccinations*
Colony Districts **:—**			
Freetown	—	—	30,173
Headquarters Judicial ...	—	—	2,312
Bonthe	1	—	537
Protectorate Districts **:—**			
Northern Province—			
Port Loko	—	—	1,342
Karene	—	—	219
Bombali	—	—	1,886
Koinadugu...	3	—	360
Tonkolili	7	—	1,901
Southern Province—			
Kailahun	24	—	4,333
Kenema	1	—	1,070
Kono	8	—	724
Bo	9	—	1,513
Moyamba	—	—	1,708
Pujehun	2	—	596
Sherbro	—	—	807
	55	—	49,481

An outbreak occurred at Kailahun District in April, and was dealt with in the usual way, 4,333 vaccinations being performed.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses with concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm-tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or of native timber boarding, and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables houseowners and prospective houseowners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately 40 new houses have been erected at a cost of about £17,000.

The Freetown Improvement Ordinance regulates the construction, standard of maintenance and demolition of unsafe buildings in Freetown. These regulations are applied by a staff of Building Inspectors in the Public Works Department: action is being taken to bring them up to date.

Simple building regulations have been instituted for the control of dwellings in the rural areas.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm-tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities in Sierra Leone are gold, diamonds, iron ore, platinum, chromite and possibly ilmenite. Export of the first five minerals were made during the year.

Production for 1938 is compared with that for the two previous years in the following table:—

		Gold: crude and unrefined gold bullion (*ozs. troy*).	*Platinum coarse crude* (*ozs. troy*).	*Diamonds* (*carats*).	*Iron ore exports* (*tons*).	*Chromite exports* (*tons*).	*Estimated value.* £
1936	...	40,764	484	616,200	566,595	—	1,248,695
1937	...	39,151	308	913,401	633,985	729	1,666,102
1938	...	32,980	180	689,622	861,955	1,300	1,697,582

The area of ground under mineral development at the end of the year consisted of 84,170 acres under mining lease titles and 131,495 yards of stream under mining right titles together with a further 143·75 acres and 97,650 yards of stream under application respectively for mining leases and mining rights in respect of which permission has been granted to mine prior to grant of title.

Gold.—It is likely that the production of alluvial gold reached its peak during 1936. The output for the year 1938 reached 32,980 ounces of an estimated value of £216,803 which is a decline on the previous year's production of 39,151 ounces. Gold has as yet only been produced from alluvial sources, but prospecting for lode has been continued. Attention has recently been turned to the possibility of dredging in the bigger rivers and an amount of work has been done in this connexion.

Mining continued actively in the districts previously worked —namely, Tonkolili and Karene in the Northern Province and Bo, Kailahun and Kono in the Southern Province. In addition one mining right each was worked in Koinadugu District, Northern Province and Kenema District, Southern Province.

Diamonds.—This industry continued in a satisfactory state. The output for the year was 689,622 carats which is considerably less than that for 1937 which was 913,401 carats. A large proportion of the diamonds are of gem quality and reserves are considerable. As a result future prospects are bright. Diamond mining is confined to the Kono District.

Iron Ore.—The output for the year was 861,955 tons which shows an increase over last year when the production was 633,985 tons. The company concerned has erected a concentration plant at Marampa for dealing with powder ore and work on loading facilities for handling the concentrates at Pepel is now in progress.

A survey for the proposed extension of the railway from Marampa to the Tonkolili area was completed some time ago, but the construction has not yet commenced and it may be some time before the enormous Tonkolili deposits are exploited.

Platinum.—A few individuals were engaged in a small way. The output amounted to 180 ounces as against 308 ounces for last year. It is being mined in the Colony.

Chromite.—An Exclusive Prospecting Licence has been granted in respect of this mineral and tests are being carried out. A quantity of chromite was shipped in order to test the quality of the ore and to explore the market for it. It is proposed to apply for a mining lease over the area proved to contain workable deposits. The chromite deposit is in Kenema District.

Ilmenite.—No interest was shown in the ilmenite sands in the Colony.

General.—Gold mining is carried out by companies, syndicates and individuals. The alluvial deposits in the streams of gold and platinum are very suitable for individual operators. The diamonds are mined by a company which holds a monopoly for their exploitation. The base metal deposits require large scale capital interests for their development and working.

The haematite deposits at Marampa are mined under a concession granted by the Tribal Authority of the Marampa Chiefdom. Diamonds, gold and platinum are mined under mining lease titles and mining right titles. The chromite was taken from ground the subject of an exclusive prospecting licence and exported by permission under the Minerals Ordinance.

Mining leases may be of several kinds dependent on the nature and mode of occurrence of the mineral in respect of which they are taken up and the mineral rent, period of tenure and allowable area vary according to the kind of lease. Mining rights are of one kind only and are intended for ground the mineral bearing qualities of which are not such as to justify a mining lease. Permission to mine may be granted pending the grant of title to a mining lease or mining right. Water rights may be taken up to allow of the working of mining properties.

For mining leases, mining rights and water rights, mineral rents and water rents respectively are payable to the Crown and such rents from properties in the Protectorate are placed to the credit of a Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund: surface rents and compensation for surface damage are payable to and apportioned between the landowner and Paramount Chief of the chiefdom in which the mining property is located.

Mining is restricted in certain areas.

There was no recorded local consumption of the minerals produced.

Agricultural Produce.

The total area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 square miles. The general system of agriculture is that known as " shifting cultivation " and it is impossible to estimate with any accuracy the area under annual cultivation. The chief crop is rice, both upland and wetland. Others of importance are cassava, " fundi " (*Digitaria exilis*), groundnuts, sweet potato, and ginger.

Formerly a large proportion of the country was covered by high forest, but not more than 2-5 per cent. is now under this type of vegetation. Some 40-50 per cent. is under secondary bush, varying from 3 to 20 years of age, according to population density and marketing facilities, which are the chief factors determining demand for farming land; this type of bush is the source of the main export crops, chiefly oil palm, kola, ginger and cacao. 35-45 per cent. is under orchard bush and grass; about two-thirds of this is farmed by the shifting cultivation method; the remainder, although affording grazing to some extent, is unsuitable by reason of the soil conditions for any agricultural uses. Land which is swampy, either permanently or in the rainy season only, accounts for some 10-20 per cent. of the total area; at present about one-tenth is under annual rice cultivation. Raphia palms are common in many swamps not cleared for rice and provide piassava for export and many products for local use.

Along the coast fishing is an important local industry and cured fish from this source are an important item of food in all parts of the country enjoying good transport facilities. The production of salt is a minor industry in some of the estuaries.

The area devoted to mineral production is relatively small, and future development is unlikely to interfere seriously with agricultural lands.

As to future development and improvement of land suitable for agriculture: apart from swamps there is practically no unused land which can be profitably brought under cultivation. An increasing population, settled conditions and improved marketing facilities have brought about a demand for agricultural land which has resulted in the shortening of the fallow (bush regrowth) period. The bush, and with it soil fertility, is rapidly deteriorating and the area required annually to maintain production is increasing steadily. The heavy rainfall, and attendant soil erosion and leaching, have so far prevented the evolution of any satisfactory system of intensive farming. If the destruction of bush is not checked it is obvious that not only will food production suffer but the Colony's chief exports, oil palm products, kola and cocoa, will be in great danger.

Future development will therefore depend largely on the satisfactory conservation of bush—it is thought that a regrowth period of about 10 years between croppings will be necessary—and the fuller utilization of swamp land for food production, chiefly rice. It has already been stated that only about one-tenth of the existing swamp land is utilized, for rice in the rainy season and, where conditions are favourable, for sweet potato and vegetable crops in the dry season. Farmers are being encouraged and assisted to develop the swamps; steady progress is being made and there is reason to believe that a fairly large proportion of the swamp area can be utilized by present methods and practically all where and when economic pressure makes drainage and irrigation profitable.

During the latter part of the year under review agricultural surveys were started which comprise the Colony Peninsula and the extensive coastal swamp area between the Ribbi and Bagru rivers in the Southern Province.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The 1938 crop was well above normal and it is anticipated that there will be a surplus for export in 1939. In this connexion it should be clearly understood that the principal rice harvest extends roughly from October to January and that the effect of any one season is not felt on the market till the following year. It is thought that while the season and the upland farms (which depend entirely on the season) were above normal, the swamp areas also showed an increase in production and it is estimated that the market recently created by the rapid growth of the mining industry will be fully supplied by local production and a surplus available for export.

It is impossible to give more than the roughest estimate of the annual rice production since no statistics exist, but judging from the population, and the place that rice fills in the diet of the people, it is estimated that production in a normal year approximates to 175,000 tons of paddy.

Efforts are being made to increase the production of this crop in the wetland areas in order to relieve the pressure on the dry-land farms for rice. In the Scarcies swamp area the Government has introduced improved varieties of rice which give bigger yields of good quality rice. G.E.B. 24, which was mentioned in the 1936 report, is increasing rapidly and has become established in the market as the foremost of the local rices. It commands a small premium.

The rice cleaning mill which started in 1936 at Cline Town milled 11,896 bushels that year. In 1937 some 29,863 bushels were milled and milling was only restricted by difficulties with regard to parboiling and storage. These difficulties were to some extent overcome in 1938 when 39,900 bushels were cleaned. The proper cleaning of rice is much appreciated by local consumers and a substantial premium can be obtained for properly cleaned rice.

As anticipated in the last Annual Report there was no shortage of rice during 1938 but on the contrary there was a surplus for export and during the last two or three months of the year 355 tons of rice were exported.

Food Crops other than rice.—The production of these, of which the most important are digitaria, cassava, groundnut and sweet potato, was not hindered by the season, and the total production was well up to normal.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—63,697 tons of palm kernels valued at £457,030 were exported in 1938. The fall in quantity was undoubtedly due to the fact that producers were discouraged by the low price. Kernels are not consumed locally so that when the price of kernels is low, native cultivators try other methods to secure a money income.

Ginger.—2,705 tons valued at £60,679 were exported in 1938. This is a record; but owing to the large quantity exported the previous year, and the extent of the crop, the price fell considerably, with the result that, although the amount exported was increased by over 300 tons, the value of the crop was some £37,000 less. It is anticipated that in view of the large exports of ginger in 1937 and 1938 the price in 1939 will be very adversely affected. Very little ginger is used locally.

Piassava.—3,791 tons of piassava valued at £40,365 were exported. This is another record for quantity exported, but, owing to the fall in price, the total value was considerably lower. The generally healthy tone of this industry during the past few years is due to the great improvement in quality. Piassava is chiefly an export crop but is used locally on a small scale for the manufacture of fishing traps, etc.

Kola.—There was a distinct fall in the kola trade; 1,450 tons valued at £29,784 were exported and this is the lowest amount exported during the past 29 years. It is thought that this decrease is due to financial difficulties in Nigeria to which country a great deal of the kola is normally exported. Kola is also grown for local consumption and probably as much is utilized locally as is exported.

Cocoa.—Increasing amounts of cocoa are being marketed and during 1938, 384 tons valued at £5,849 were exported as compared with 265 tons in 1937. This is the largest quantity exported in any one year and the amount, although small, gives indication of the possibilities of this crop.

Coffee.—There was a slight fall in the amount of coffee exported during 1938 which amounted to 38 tons valued at £792. This is due in part to the fall in price and in part, it is thought, to increasing local consumption.

Livestock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the livestock of this country. Cattle farming is carried out in a small way in the

Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country and pigs to a small extent. The value of the export in hides amounted to £1,046 in 1938. Government has secured the services of a Livestock Officer to investigate the possibilities of improving the numbers of the various forms of stock in the Dependency.

General.

The production of food is entirely in the hands of individual agriculturists, the majority of whom are small farmers. Each farmer, with the assistance of family labour, produces food for his own consumption. In the more backward parts of the country the farmer grows a diversity of crops and is practically self sufficient for all food supplies, but where transport facilities are good there is a tendency to concentrate on the most profitable crops and obtain other food requirements by barter or with the money from sales. There is as yet no export of local food crops, although an export in rice is expected in the near future, and the production of more food than can be consumed locally is something new. The cultivation, or collection and preparation, of agricultural products for the export market is also in the hands of individual agriculturists, and the money realized by the sale of these commodities is largely utilized for the payment of taxes and the purchase of imported articles.

All products are sold in the open market. The more fortunately placed producers can sell direct to the commercial firms and get a fair price, but a large proportion are obliged to deal with small petty traders and thus receive a poor return for their labour. It is clear that there are distinct possibilities for organized co-operative marketing especially in connection with the important export crops.

An Ordinance to regulate the conduct of Co-operative Societies was introduced and read a first time at the November meeting of Legislative Council in 1938. It is expected that this Ordinance will pass through the final stages at the May meeting of Council in 1939. In anticipation of this three farmers' marketing societies have been started in the Scarcies area where rice is produced on an intensive scale. In 1938 the membership of these societies was 100 and paddy belonging to the societies was sent to the Government mill in Freetown for cleaning and disposal.

Production for food and export is entirely in the hands of the indigenous peoples. The Syrian community, numbering about 1,400, have in the past restricted their activities to trading, but are now showing an interest in the production of bananas for export, and in 1938 a Syrian planter started a banana plantation which already shows great promise.

Employment of agricultural labour under Europeans is restricted to about 300 men engaged annually on the experimental and demonstration stations of the Agricultural Department. The knowledge gained in this way by labourers who subsequently return to work in their villages is definitely beneficial. By this means planting material of new crops and improved indigenous varieties has been widely disseminated. In addition farmers have been taught how to choose sites for, and plant and maintain economic crops, chiefly cocoa, coffee and oil palm. A few farmers have also been helped to take up ploughing which is new to this country. It has been found that farmers directly assisted in this way afford a demonstration, and diffuse knowledge, which their neighbours are quick to adopt.

Forests.

Forestry in Sierra Leone, as elsewhere, performs a dual function: it attempts to protect all existing forest and tries, within the limits of its financial resources, to develop areas capable of development in the existing economic regime.

It is estimated, tentatively, that about 1,500 square miles of true forest remains in the country most of which is tropical rain forest, scattered remnants mostly of a much more extensive forest estate which must have existed in the not distant past. Local agricultural methods, which must have persisted for centuries, have undoubtedly destroyed large tracts of such forest, and settled peaceful conditions are hastening the processes of destruction. Nevertheless, given scientific forest management, it is considered that the area quoted above is sufficient to meet nearly all local timber requirements at the present rate of consumption, but there seems little likelihood in the near future of any available surplus which could bring about a revival of the export trade which flourished until roughly the middle of the nineteenth century. It is curious too that the usual West African export species appear to be largely absent from Sierra Leone. Sawyers will find it difficult to obtain their supplies from outside reserves and exploitation will have to be started in such reserves where it is economically possible.

In 1938 imports of timber according to Customs returns amounted to 1,066,380 super. ft. valued at £15,625. It is impossible to estimate the consumption of sawn timber obtained from outside reserves but in Kenema, in the Kambui Reserve, an exploitation scheme initiated in 1934 by the Forest Department produced during the year 179,066 super. ft. or slightly less than 20 per cent. by volume of the figure for imported timber. The direct result of this organization has been largely to replace in certain Government Departments, the use of imported by local timber. It is hoped that this work will be extended considerably in the near future.

Less spectacular, but at least equally important if more difficult to appraise, is the protective work done by the Forest Department. About 70 per cent. by area of existing forest reserves in the country may be classed as protection forests. The aims of such reservation are to protect hill slopes from destructive and, in the end, unprofitable agriculture: to prevent erosion: to maintain, so far as is possible, existing climatic conditions: to protect important watersheds and the gathering grounds of the principal streams. There is no reason whatever why reserves primarily protective in function should not be developed economically as well. By careful management this can easily be contrived but limiting factors are ease of communications by road, rail or water and the accessibility of possible markets. Here the habits and relative wealth of the people play an important part. In many parts of the Protectorate mud and wattle houses with thatched roofs are still the rule. There would appear to be little immediate likelihood of such people changing their building methods even if supplies of cheap sawn timber were available.

The area of reserved forest in Colony and Protectorate has now reached at 766 square miles the most inadequate figure of approximately 2·75 per cent. of the total area of country. Plans are being laid which aim at bringing this figure nearer to what experts consider to be the desirable safe minimum for tropical countries which is variously estimated at from 20 to 30 per cent. Reserves in the Colony are on Crown Lands which are therefore available for purposes of Government but in the Protectorate only timber rights over reserved areas are alienated. The land there still belongs to the communal owners and this is recognized by the grant to them of a royalty on all forest produce extracted from the reserves. Farming rights in reserves are respected and the Settlement Courts make allowance for such rights when reserve agreements are negotiated.

Improvement fellings which are silvicultural in aim as well as for utilization, are being carried out in the Kambui Reserve. In certain other reserves regeneration by the taungya method is now being undertaken as extensively as organization of the necessary nursery stocks can be arranged.

VII.—COMMERCE.

An attractive price in the European market for each of the various articles of domestic produce is the chief incentive to an export trade of any importance. The principal articles of produce are palm kernels, palm oil, ginger, piassava and peppers, the leading purchasing countries in 1938 being the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United States of America. Palm kernels accounted for 19 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1938.

The export of minerals (diamonds, raw gold, and iron ore) accounted for 73 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1938. To this percentage diamonds contributed 36, gold 9 and iron ore 28.

Import trade is done with the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Canada and South Africa, some of the principal articles being cotton piece-goods, beer, flour, salt, tobacco, coal, illuminating oil, motor spirit and provisions unenumerated.

Rice, the staple food of the African population, is produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demand; but a noteworthy trade is done in imported articles of foodstuff.

The following table shows the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the past five years:—

Year.	*Total Imports.*	*Domestic Exports.*	*Re-exports.*
	£	£	£
1934	805,227	832,809	179,066
1935	1,214,315	1,556,816	27,018
1936	1,346,715	2,224,918	152,047
1937	1,839,582	2,819,977	23,563
1938	1,500,342	2,344,195	44,734

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS FROM EMPIRE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1934 TO 1938 AND THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
United Kingdom ...	58·38	70·17	70·00	69·79	68·76
British West African Possessions.	·77	2·87	·36	·55	·74
British Possessions (other).	18·03	11·02	13·91	14·60	16·38
France	1·45	1·08	·95	·68	·63
Germany	2·75	2·61	2·64	2·43	1·55
Netherlands	·55	·70	·71	·74	·43
United States of America.	8·59	6·11	4·96	4·15	5·82
Japan	3·57	·76	1·47	1·60	1·34
Foreign West African Possessions.	·12	·41	·30	·71	·97
Other European Countries.	4·66	3·38	3·46	4·04	2·52
Other Countries ...	1·13	·89	1·24	·71	·86
Totals	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

THE PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO EMPIRE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1934 TO 1938 AND THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION.

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
United Kingdom ...	67·12	68·12	61·81	69·07	61·54
British West African Possessions.	3·11	3·08	7·40	2·16	1·06
British Possessions (other).	·35	·37	·40	·48	·28
France	·19	·10	·29	·41	·18
Germany	14·63	11·31	14·86	15·59	5·48
Netherlands	8·34	7·87	11·14	6·33	24·61
United States of America.	2·02	2·46	1·00	2·22	1·84
Japan	·07	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	·91	·58	·45	·65	·66
Other European Countries.	2·99	5·73	2·46	2·87	4·11
Other Countries ...	·27	·38	·19	·22	·24
Totals	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

STATEMENT OF THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS DURING 1937 AND 1938 OTHER THAN BULLION AND SPECIE, INDICATING THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

Article.		*1937.*		*1938.*		*Principal Sources of Supply.*
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
			£		£	
Beer and ale, stout and porter	Imp. gall.	158,124	29,433	152,750	28,124	United Kingdom, Eire, Germany.
Biscuits, bread and cakes :—						
Cabin or ships'	cwt.	6,899	13,394	1,809	3,013	United Kingdom.
Fish of all kinds	,,	4,192	10,529	1,779	4,928	Canada, Portugal, United States of America, Japan.
Rice	,,	84,085	46,387	6,820	3,343	Burma, Portuguese Guinea.
Flour	,,	30,911	27,184	29,901	24,031	Canada.
Salt (common)	,,	100,521	24,865	66,201	17,401	United Kingdom.
Spirits (potable)	Imp. gall.	10,885	11,130	10,988	11,170	United Kingdom, France, Jamaica.
Sugar	cwt.	17,966	11,836	17,608	10,044	United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia.
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	lb.	1,619,299	68,646	1,144,237	48,701	Canada, Nyasaland, Union of South Africa, United States of America.
Tobacco	,,	67,094	19,303	60,750	17,953	United Kingdom.
Cigarettes	hundreds	258,986		250,113		
Wines, still	Imp. gall.	86,943	19,180	48,708	11,160	Union of South Africa, Spain, Cyprus, France, Germany.
Coal	ton	74,104	113,335	67,945	104,365	United Kingdom.
Lumber	Superficial feet.	1,112,129	16,699	1,066,380	15,265	United States of America, Canada, Norway, United Kingdom.
Apparel :—						
Boots and shoes, all kinds	pair	146,297	14,331	148,761	16,136	United Kingdom, British India, Hong Kong.
Hats, caps, bonnets, etc....	doz.	31,461	13,072	21,968	9,680	United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong.
Singlets	No.	468,013	13,678	181,726	5,023	Hong Kong, United Kingdom.
Bags and sacks (empty) ...	,,	1,390,570	29,287	882,682	19,355	British India.
Cotton piece-goods	Sq. yd.	12,883,821	311,457	7,233,105	173,322	United Kingdom, British India.
	cwt.	28,088		15,977		

Article.		*1937.*		*1938.*		*Principal Sources of Supply.*
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
			£		£	
Woollen and worsted manufactures (all kinds).	value	—	13,859	—	8,243	United Kingdom.
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus (all kinds).	,,	—	8,268	—	10,027	United Kingdom, United States of America.
Implements and tools ...	,,	—	17,094	—	6,700	United Kingdom.
Machinery, electrical ...	,,	—	17,256	—	42,449	,,
,, industrial ...	,,	—	13,538	—	1,872	,,
,, mining	,,	—	38,315	—	64,341	United Kingdom, United States of America.
Metals :—						
Buckets, pails and basins	doz.	44,273	16,506	5,573	1,698	United Kingdom, Japan.
Corrugated iron sheets ...	ton	621	13,055	187	4,017	United Kingdom.
Other kinds	value	—	56,199	—	25,572	United Kingdom, Germany.
Vehicles—Road :—						
Chassis with engines ...	No.	70	10,471	25	4,356	United Kingdom.
Private cars (including cabs).	,,	99	14,601	103	14,886	United Kingdom, Canada.
Beads	lb.	95,860	13,342	14,543	2,235	Czechoslovakia, Germany.
Cement	ton	4,777	13,730	5,050	15,290	United Kingdom.
Medicines and drugs... ...	value	—	18,463	—	13,195	United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany.
Oil—illuminating	Imp. gall.	491,344	22,794	460,778	21,042	United States of America, United Kingdom.
,, fuel	,,	314,550	9,368	466,191	10,624	United Kingdom, United States of America.
,, Motor spirit	,,	461,554	22,353	423,466	19,620	United States of America, Trinidad.
Perfumery	value	—	14,286	—	5,402	United Kingdom.

THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, OTHER THAN BULLION AND SPECIE DURING 1937 AND 1938.

		1937.		*1938.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£
Benniseed	ton	104	1,662	374	3,700
Cocoa, raw	,,	265	8,830	384	5,849
Diamonds	value	—	1,070,384	—	858,055
Ginger	lb.	5,340,944	97,622	6,059,200	60,680
Gold	oz. (troy)	40,828	269,465	31,505	207,940
Hides (cattle) tanned	lb.	27,920	2,029	4,880	316
,, untanned ...	cwt.	1,032	2,825	278	730
Kola nuts	cental of 100 lb.	50,347	60,504	32,470	29,785
Palm kernels	ton	76,776	884,812	63,697	457,031
Palm oil	,,	2,325	42,238	1,066	16,025
Peppers...	lb.	45,455	1,093	201,897	3,410
Piassava	ton	3,392	43,609	3,791	40,369
Platinum	oz. (troy)	227	2,361	135	1,004
Rice	cwt.	140	88	7,109	2,927
Iron ore	value	—	325,605	—	646,421
Re-exports (less specie and currency notes) :—					
Wood and timber unmanufactured, other kinds.		—	1,164	—	—
Metals—iron and steel manufactures, other kinds.		—	3,895	—	2,078
Vehicles—Ships and boats mechanically propelled.		—	1,500	—	1,000
,, road, commercial vehicles, etc.		—	1,430	—	—
,, road, private cars		—	2,729	—	2,987
,, air, aeroplane parts		—	1,550	—	183
Goods unenumerated manufactured ...		—	1,371	—	620
Machinery—marine		—	312	—	422
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus :—					
Wireless apparatus :—					
Complete sets		—	470	—	385
Other re-exports		—	8,962	—	14,029

Palm Kernels: The Home market price gradually decreased from £11 in January to £8 14s. 6d. in December and averaged throughout the year £9 8s. 3d. as compared with £13 10s. in 1937.

Shipments to the United Kingdom decreased from 29,962 to 24,146 tons. Exports to Germany fell from 33,213 to 14,849 tons, whilst those to the Netherlands and Denmark increased from 10,120 to 21,416 tons and from 1,223 to 1,533 tons respectively.

Brief Statistics of Imports and Exports of Coin and Notes during 1934 to 1938.

Imports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie and Currency Notes :—					
Alloy...	12,144	82,250	40,075	124,001	68,697
Nickel	1,102	1,573	1,405	2,154	2,314
Silver	184	3	5,500	—	50
Currency notes ...	15,406	3,849	1,276	21,397	62,185

Exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Specie and Currency Notes :—					
Alloy...	152,480	200	25,720	180	20,000
Nickel	240	—	—	—	630
Silver	8,394	11,545	6,800	—	2,400
Currency notes ...	2,580	1,230	100,500	—	—

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year amounted to £1,500,342 as compared with £1,839,582 in 1937, being a decrease of £339,240.

The following table shows the value of imports by classes during the years 1937 and 1938:—

	1937.	1938.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	366,195	265,127	101,068
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	147,171	142,087	5,084
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	1,139,428	926,103	213,325
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	39,136	33,721	5,415
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc....	147,652	133,304	14,348
Totals	£1,839,582	£1,500,342	£339,240

Total decrease ... £339,240.

Compared with 1937 there were decreases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I—" Food " by £70,388, " Drink " by £9,310 and " Tobacco " (mainly unmanufactured) by £21,370.

Commercial coal and lumber were mainly responsible for the decrease in Class II, the value being £5,084 less than the 1937 imports.

The majority of items under Class III recorded a decrease, particularly cotton piece goods £138,324, and iron and steel manufactures, other kinds, not elsewhere specified £30,172 Appreciable increases were however recorded in fuel oil £74,540, machinery, mining and gold dredging, £26,026, and machinery, electrical, £21,251.

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piecegoods, including velveteen, for the years 1934 to 1938:—

Year.	*Quantity.* *Sq. yds.*	*Value.* £	*Duty obtained.* £
1934	5,638,488	107,740	26,524
1935	14,207,762	297,455	72,593
1936	14,408,232	328,107	76,320
1937	12,883,821	311,457	65,067
1938	7,233,105	173,322	39,201

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1937 and 1938:—

	Value. *1937.* £	*Percentage.* *1937.*	*Value.* *1938.* £	*Percentage.* *1938.*
United Kingdom	1,283,815	69·79	1,031,705	68·76
British West African Possessions.	10,137	0·55	11,110	0·74
British Possessions (other) ...	268,631	14·60	245,705	16·38
France	12,417	0·68	9,475	0·63
Germany	44,734	2·43	23,214	1·55
Netherlands	13,551	0·74	6,444	0·43
United States of America ...	76,273	4·15	87,360	5·82
Japan	29,439	1·60	20,084	1·34
Foreign West African Possessions.	13,085	0·71	14,587	0·97
Other European Countries ...	74,367	4·04	37,710	2·52
Other Countries	13,133	0·71	12,948	0·86
Totals	£1,839,582	100·00	£1,500,342	100·00

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year amounted to £2,388,929 (domestic exports being £2,344,195 and non-domestic £44,734).

The following table shows the value of exports by classes during the years 1937 and 1938:—

	1937. £	*1938.* £	*Increase.* £	*Decrease.* £
Class I—				
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	171,057	104,275	—	66,782
Class II—				
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.	2,379,605	2,030,932	—	348,673
Class III—				
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	19,590	17,931	—	1,659
Class IV—				
Animals not for food ...	3,643	4,821	1,178	—
Class V—				
Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes.	269,645	230,970	—	38,675
Totals	£2,843,540	£2,388,929	£1,178	£455,789

Net decrease £454,611

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1937 and 1938:—

Country.	Value. 1937.	Percentage. 1937.	Value. 1938.	Percentage. 1938.
	£		£	
United Kingdom	1,964,006	69·07	1,470,378	61·54
British West African Possessions	61,340	2·16	25,434	1·06
British Possessions (other) ...	13,563	0·48	6,624	0·28
France	11,728	0·41	4,396	0·18
Germany	443,346	15·59	131,062	5·48
Netherlands	180,092	6·33	587,839	24·61
United States of America ...	63,189	2·22	43,965	1·84
Japan	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	18,448	0·65	15,776	0·66
Other European Countries ...	81,520	2·87	97,724	4·11
Other Countries	6,308	0·22	5,731	0·24
Totals	£2,843,540	100·00	£2,388,929	100·00

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years:—

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1934	68,655	360,780
1935	78,019	583,645
1936	84,578	810,238
1937	76,776	884,812
1938	63,697	457,031

State of Trade.

The following comparative table summarizes the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years:—

Year.	Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).	Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).	Net Imports.	Domestic Exports.	Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.	Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.	Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.	Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310
1935	1,126,556	14,043	1,112,513	1,556,816	—	444,303	441,966	4,794,868
1936	1,298,390	19,027	1,279,363	2,224,918	—	945,555	491,694	4,979,189
1937	1,691,930	23,383	1,668,547	2,550,512	—	881,965	531,556	5,473,202
1938	1,367,038	21,704	1,345,334	2,136,255	—	790,921	403,944	5,435,123

Tourist Traffic.

On the 28th February, 1928, the first cruise ship, s.s. *Laconia*, arrived in Sierra Leone carrying 331 tourists. In 1938 six vessels visited Freetown and approximately 1,626 tourists came ashore.

This season ranges from December to April.

The amount spent in the Colony by tourists is not prodigious. The Railway Department collected £344 in 1938 on excursions to Waterloo, a village 21 miles distant from Freetown and it is estimated that local motor transport services benefitted to the extent of £200.

Cars are available for drives to Hill Station, a residential quarter six miles from Freetown, 850 feet above sea level, and to Lumley Beach, seven miles distant, where good sea bathing is available. When the Colony circular road is completed a drive of 16 miles from Freetown along the coast through picturesque scenery will be possible. Other points of interest where excellent views can be obtained are Mount Aureol and Regent village.

VIII.—LABOUR.

Mineral Industry.

An average number of 13,534 Africans was employed in mining and prospecting throughout the year and additional numbers were engaged in such accessory services as police work, building and construction, etc.

In general the labour supply was adequate. No recruiting methods were necessary there being normally sufficient men applying for work on the spot. There were the usual seasonal contractions in labour supply during the planting and harvesting periods.

In the gold and platinum industries the introduction of tributing has been very popular with the native who in the majority of cases prefers this to daily wage work, and more than half the labour was so engaged.

Other unskilled labour was employed on a daily wage basis, and the rate of pay was either fixed or made dependent on the completion of a task.

One company augments the wage with a free daily issue of rice, while other companies by accumulating stocks ot rice ensure that it is available at a reasonable price to the labourer throughout the year.

Agricultural Labour.

The 1931 census estimated the total population at 1,768,480. The number of non-Africans is negligible. Adult able-bodied males number about 450,000 and of these about 95 per cent., with the assistance from other members of their families, are engaged in agriculture as a whole or part-time occupation. There are no agricultural estates or plantations and the labour on farms is of the nature described, assisted to a small extent by domestics and casual labourers who do not receive any cash payment but are usually given lodging, some produce, and often the use of farm land.

At present the supply of labour for agricultural pursuits is adequate. Recent mining activities have withdrawn some 14,000 labourers, and their dependants, from farming, and this has created a demand for 4,000 to 5,000 tons of rice, in addition to other foodstuffs. In 1937 this demand was met by importing rice, but in 1938 the rice crop was so large that there was enough to supply this market and still leave a small surplus for export.

Forestry Labour.

The Forest Department is not a large employer of labour. At Kenema average figures for 1938 were:—

	Average monthly numbers.	
Sawyers (skilled and semi-skilled).	50	Usually work in groups of three which earn on an average £3 per month: this divided, £1 10s. or roughly 1s. 3d. per day to the headman: the other £1 10s. is divided between the other two men probably in the proportion 9d. and 6d. per day. Good gangs can earn up to as much as double the above amount.
Labourers	45	Paid at standard Protectorate rate of 8d. per day. Except that manual transport work now done at suitable piece-work rates by which labourers can earn more but most of the labour so employed is casual.

To obtain supplies of labour at Kenema has proved increasingly difficult and the monthly average has fluctuated between 26 and 79. Work is arduous, sometimes dangerous and during the heavy rains not a little irksome. It is not surprising therefore that labourers tend to go elsewhere in search of more congenial work. Chiefly because of shortage of labour, but for other reasons as well, the Department has been compelled to consider seriously the question of mechanization of all the processes of exploitation. A power-driven saw-mill, fed by mechanized transport, would relieve local labour of much of the drudgery of present work at Kenema. It is to be hoped that conditions will then prove more attractive.

Major W. F. Chipp, D.S.O., M.C., Forest Engineer, Federated Malay States, visited Sierra Leone in 1938 and advised against the extension of mechanised methods of exploitation to Kenema. A search for a suitable area elsewhere is being undertaken, so far without success.

Plantation work at Tabe and elsewhere gave employment to a monthly average of 51 labourers but here the variation was between 19 and 190. Such work is essentially seasonal in its incidence and sometimes labourers were only employed for a few days in one month of the year. With the exception of two senior nurserymen at 1s. 9d. per day and nine junior nurserymen at 1s. 6d., labour was usually paid at the basic Protectorate rate of 8d. per day.

Supervision of Labour Conditions in the Protectorate.

In the Northern and Southern Provinces no Labour Department or inspectorate is established but the work of supervision of Labour Conditions has been carried out by the Medical and Mines Departments and by the District Commissioner concerned. Certain areas in which mining activities are existent and where a large number of labourers are housed have been declared Labour Health Areas under the Employers and Employed Ordinance No. 30 of 1934. The mining areas contain virtually all the organised industrial labour to be found in the Protectorate, and employees in such work numbered about 12,000 in 1938. These areas are inspected at frequent intervals by officers of the Medical Department, who report anything outside their province to the District Commissioner who endeavours to ensure that the recommendations made are carried into effect. The Mines Department are more concerned with the pay and general working conditions of the labourers.

District Commissioners themselves make frequent visits to the mines areas in order to ascertain that the conditions regarding housing and sanitation are in accordance with the special Regulations laid down by the Employers and Employed Ordinance of 1934. Half-yearly reports are submitted on 30th June and 30th December to Government, giving information on these subjects. Those already received reveal that satisfactory progress has been made and a good standard has been maintained. The large companies possess their own hospitals and engage the services of a qualified Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector. A qualified African dispenser is usually attached to the camps of private employers where labour is not employed on a large scale. Full use is made of available Government hospital and dispensary facilities.

Local legislation in so far as it affects this subject will be found in Chapter XIV.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (*Public Works*).—In Freetown during 1938 Public Works artisans were paid from 2s. to 6s. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. a day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 8d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. to 5s. for journeymen.

Labourers (*Public Works*).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day. In certain cases semi-skilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 2s.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 8d. to 1s., while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 10d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

Artisans (*Railway Department*).—In Freetown during 1938 Railway artisans were paid from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. per day for apprentices.

Labourers (*Railway Department*).—In Freetown the rate of pay of unskilled labour was from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 1s. 9d.

In the Protectorate the rate of pay of labourers varied from 8d. to 1s. per day, while that of Gangers was from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per day, and skilled labourers from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the only staple food, was obtainable at from 4s. 6d. to 6s. a bushel.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Education is now governed by a revised Ordinance passed in 1938, but the Schedule of Rules for the Colony (1929) and the Protectorate (1930) have not yet been revised and are still in force.

In the Colony the Protestant infant and primary schools are conducted by school committees as the result of the amalgamation of denominational schools. Of these there are 35. There are also two Government, four Roman Catholic and three Mohammedan schools. The managers of these schools, i.e., the owners of the school buildings or their representatives, are theoretically responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, but Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment. All school fees are paid into Government revenue. There are at present 44 schools of this type in the Colony, with 7,241 pupils on their rolls and an average attendance of 5,520.

There is one Government secondary school for boys in the Colony and three assisted schools, which receive capitation and equipment grants; grants are also paid to qualified teachers. There are four assisted girls' secondary schools. In these schools there are on the rolls:—

Boys.—65 primary, 213 preparatory and 258 secondary pupils.

Girls.—375 primary, 94 preparatory and 168 secondary pupils.

There are also two assisted schools in the Colony which provide vocational training—The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School (wood-working) for boys, and the A.M.E. Girls' Industrial School (Domestic Science). Courses in carpentry and printing form part of the curriculum at the Albert Academy, one of the assisted boys' secondary schools.

Apart from assisted schools there are an unassisted boys' secondary school, a preparatory girls' school, and a number of unassisted primary schools.

Domestic science forms an important part of the curriculum in the education of girls. Special examinations are held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas awarded to successful students. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian (Mission) Hospital.

There is a scheme whereby a number of scholarships are awarded to enable boys and girls from primary schools to attend approved secondary schools.

Higher education in Arts and Theology is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University, and in scientific subjects by scholarships to the Higher College, Yaba, Nigeria.

Government finances schemes for the training of male teachers in connection with Fourah Bay College and for the training of female teachers at the Women Teachers' Training College, Wilberforce.

An Agricultural Institute at Mabang, managed by the Trustees of the S.B. Thomas Bequest, provides training in agriculture for a limited number of youths from the Colony.

In the Protectorate there are three Government schools; there are also 97 assisted mission schools, which are eligible for capitation, building and equipment grants; teachers' salaries being paid by the missions and supplemented in the case of qualified teachers only by grants from Government. These schools are attended by 8,242 pupils, consisting of 6,267 boys and 1,975 girls.

There is no school in the Protectorate covering the complete secondary course, but the Bo Government School and two or three mission schools have classes of secondary grade.

The Union College at Bunumbu trains teachers and evangelists for the Protestant Missions.

There is also an assisted (Catholic) Industrial School at Mobe, which gives instruction in the trades of boat-building and wood and metal working.

In Freetown a special music master teaches singing on correct lines, and very good results have been achieved. An annual singing competition is held, at which the greatest keenness is displayed.

Instruction in physical training is supervised by an officer specifically appointed for the purpose. His activities at present are limited to the schools and training colleges in Freetown and the vicinity.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick and the burial of deceased destitute persons remained the same during 1937 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

During 1937 a site was chosen at Kissy for the erection of a building to be known as the King George VI Memorial Hostel for the housing of diseased paupers. At the close of the year construction was nearing completion.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about five miles from Freetown.

XI.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT

Roads.

Communication throughout the Colony has been greatly facilitated during the past year as the result of the construction of the new Peninsula Circular Road and the commencement of the link road from Waterloo to Port Loko via Songo. Both roads are expected to be completed during 1939. The former will entirely circle the Peninsula giving easy access to the coastal towns and villages which at present can be reached only on foot or by sea, and the latter road will link up Freetown to the Protectorate road system. A new road 18 miles in length has been constructed between Mano and the Bumpe —Mattru Road.

Freetown itself is well provided with roads 35 miles of which are suitable for motor traffic. The more important of these, totalling 20 miles, are bitumen surfaced and generally provided with concrete side drains. Pedestrian side walks are now making their appearance and some of the wider roads are being bordered with flowering trees.

Outside the City Boundary there are in the Colony some 66 miles of motorable road inclusive of road construction during 1938. Of this mileage 15 have been bitumen surfaced.

Two notable innovations were made during 1938 in road construction, the first being the adoption of a new road formation giving better drainage and consequent reduction in maintenance costs whilst at the same time providing a safer carriageway for vehicles.

The other innovation was the introduction of piecework on actual road construction. Viewed at first with some suspicion by the labourers it came into immediate favour with them after they had been persuaded to give it a fair trial. The men found that the tasks were fairly assessed and that by attention to their work and co-operation within their working gangs they could increase their former earnings. The wages of the labourers are safeguarded by the Engineer-in-Charge who pays each man individually.

Since the application of this system the speed of road construction has shown a marked increase and no labour trouble whatever has been experienced with the workers.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1937 was 311 miles, with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 ins.

Capital expenditure on the railway to the 31st December, 1938, was £1,105,742.

The total revenue of this Department was £177,230, which shows a decrease of £30,446 on the figure for the previous year. The revenue includes £966 from contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure other than capital for the year was £205,323, which shows an increase of £6,562 as compared with 1937. This total includes £51,760 for loan charges. Working expenditure amounted to £153,562 and gross receipts £177,230.

	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88	8 11·03	9 7·69	10 3·16	10 8·65	9 6·41
Working expenses per train mile	*5 1·09	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98	7 8·82	6 10·82	6 7·90	7 3·39	8 3·13
Passengers carried ...	438,388	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123	449,513	540,990	633,499	663,168
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	70,949	61,859	66,024	58,866	59,938	71,628	76,887	76,298	67,998

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of six miles, and route 2 to Kuma 14 miles from Freetown, on the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1938 consisted of six passenger vehicles and two lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 303,832 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,686.

The staff employed was:—

Europeans	2
Africans	20
Total	22

Postal Business.

There was some decrease in postal business during 1938. Postal business was conducted from 17 post offices and 50 postal agencies, Money Order business from 24, and Postal Order business from 53 offices.

The total revenue collected was £30,567 as against £33,014 in the previous year. Of this amount £23,958 was derived from direct postal revenue, and £6,609 from Customs duty on parcels.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds, including 94,727 registered articles, dealt with during the year was 2,486,700 as compared with 2,271,900 in 1937. Money Order transactions decreased slightly from 4,348 (value £25,020) in 1937 to 3,780 (value £21,536) in 1938.

The total number of Postal Orders issued during the year was 60,452 valued at £38,098 and the number of Postal Orders paid was 45,744 valued at £28,433 as compared with the previous year, viz., Orders issued 64,308 valued at £40,576; Orders paid 52,386 valued at £33,447.

The Parcel Post transactions showed a slight decrease, 38,636 parcels being handled as against 39,093 the previous year.

In the Cash on Delivery Service (with Great Britain only), 9,802 parcels were received (value £17,828) as compared with 12,190 (value £22,102) in 1937.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu and Bauya to Kamabai with various subsidiary country lines throughout the Protectorate—totalling 789¾ miles.

Telephones.

The Freetown, Hill Station and Cline Town telephone services comprise 392¾ miles with a traffic control telephone line, Water Street to Pendembu (up country) of 455 miles making a total of 848¾ miles.

Broadcast Relay Service.

The Broadcast Service was inaugurated in May, 1934, and is owned and controlled by Government.

It is a relay service which operates on the rediffusion principle. The equipment, consisting of rectifying apparatus, two short-wave battery operated receivers and six power amplifiers, together with studio and gramophone equipment, is of the latest design. The power amplifiers are capable of giving a combined undistorted output of 300 watts.

Directional reflector aerials are used and are erected 500 ft. above sea level.

The station relays as a standard programme the whole of Transmissions II and IV in the Empire programme from Daventry on wavelengths of 13, 16, 19, 25 and 31 metres. All transmissions from Daventry are receivable at good signal strength in normal circumstances.

The number of subscribers up to date is over 750.

Cables and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and American broadcasting on suitable short-wavelengths.

Shipping.

There was a decrease of nine (9) in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 27,429. Of a total of 2,712,979 tons entered, 60·02 per cent. was British, 7·34 German, 4·32 Italian, 5·96 French, 5·09 American and 9·24 Netherlands.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports:—

STEAMSHIP SERVICES, 1938.

Line.	*Destination.*	*Passenger or Cargo.*	*Frequency of Calls.*	*Mail contract.*	*Other feature of the contract, and other remarks.*
Elder Dempster Lines, Limited, Liverpool.	Liverpool ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks) plus supplementary end of summer.	Liverpool and West African Colonies	Colony pays a proportion of the subsidy for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and West African Colonies.
,, ,, ,,	,, ...	Cargo	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		Cargo vessels also have passenger accommodation usually for 12.
,, ,, ,,	London	,,	13 (one each 4 weeks).		
,, ,, ,,	Continent ...	,,	18 (1 each 3 weeks).		Extra services to United Kingdom, Continent and United States of America put in as inducement offered.
,, ,, ,,	New York ...	,,	13 (one each 4 weeks).		Passenger services also accept cargo at this port.
,, ,, ,,	Canada—South Africa.	,,	12 (1 monthly)		
,, ,, ,,	Coast Ports ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		
,, ,, ,,	,, ...	Cargo	52 (1 each week)		
,, ,, ,,	Hull, London, Continent	,,	1 every 4 weeks.		
United Africa Company Steamers	Liverpool and West African ports.	2nd Class cargo boats	Twice monthly.		Limited passenger accommodation.
Navigazione Libera Triestina (Italian Line).	Genoa, W. & S. Africa	2nd Class cargo boats.	Once a month.		
Sierra Leone Development Co....	United Kingdom	Iron Ore	About once every 3 weeks.		
American West African Line, Inc., New York.	New York ...	Cargo	18 round voyages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.		

American West African Line, Inc., New York—*cont.*	U.S. Gulf ports ...	Cargo	5 round voyages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.	
Holland West-Afrika Lijn, Amsterdam	Le Havre, Amsterdam and Hamburg.	Passenger	2 monthly (outward). 2 monthly (Homeward).	Mail contract with Netherlands Government.
„ „ „	Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Hamburg.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	
„ „ „	Coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	
Woermann Linie	Southampton, Boulogne s/mer, Hamburg and Continental ports.	Passenger	2 monthly.	Mail contract with Spanish Government.
„ „	Hamburg and Continental ports.	Cargo	1 monthly.	„ „
„ „	Coast ports ...	Passenger	1 monthly.	„ „
„ „	Coast ports ...	Cargo	1 monthly.	„ „
Cie. Generale de Navigation a vapeur (Cie. Fabre), and Cie. Marseilles de Navigation a Vapeur (Cie. Fraissinet) combined services.	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	2 monthly (1 Homeward and 1 outward).	Mail contract with the Sierra Leone Government.
„ „ „	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	1 every 3 weeks (average).	
Societe Navale de l'Ouest Chargeurs Reunis.	Coast ports ...	Cargo (combined services).	1 monthly (average).	

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about four tons and motor launches with a capacity of about ten tons.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony, viz., Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima and Mano Salija.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Canalization of Streams.—Sanders Brook and Samba Water have already been canalized and the work remaining under the approved eight years' programme, due for completion at the end of 1941, consists of street drainage only. During 1938 the following streets were drained with precast ovoid concrete channels:—

Upper Brook Street.
Waterloo Street—Lower Section.
Wellington Street—Lower Section.
Upper Waterloo Street.
Lewis Street.
East side of Campbell Street from Pademba Road to West Street.

Peninsula Circular Road.—Approximately four miles of this road were completed in 1937. In January of 1938 it was found that the original estimate of £21,530 was insufficient owing to an increase in labourers' wages, the meeting of much more difficult working conditions than was anticipated and a great increase in the amount of bridging. A new estimate totalling £45,000 was submitted to Government in March and authority was received to continue the work.

The subsequent introduction of a new road formation giving better drainage and an improved carriageway, the simplification of bridge designs and the adoption of piece work for labour enabled economies to be effected and, after careful investigation of results, it was found possible to report to Government in October that the revised estimate of £45,000 could be safely reduced to £41,000—a saving of £120 per mile of construction due to the new system of working. Approximately 27 miles of this road had been completed by the end of 1938.

Waterloo—Port Loko Road.—Construction of this road commenced from both ends in October, 1938, the labour being employed on piece work from the start, good progress was made and some ten miles of carriageway were completed by the end of the year.

European Hospital, Hill Station.—Construction was commenced in 1937 and the main building was taken up to roof level in that year. During 1938 the building was completed, an isolation unit constructed and servants quarters erected. Some delay was occasioned by the non-arrival of the soil piping for the Septic Tank Sewage disposal but the whole unit was generally ready for occupation at the end of the year. This hospital is notable as being the first Government building in Sierra Leone to have a water borne sewage system installed.

New Maternity Hospital, Freetown.—The foundations of this building were completed in 1937. Good progress was made during 1938 and, at the end of the year, the main building was completed and the sanitary annexe well in hand. Decoration and internal fitting up is now proceeding.

Additional Buildings for Wilberforce Barracks.—Several additional buildings were constructed in the Barracks lines of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West Africa Frontier Force at Wilberforce.

The buildings are of permanent construction in cement-sand bricks made on site, and all buildings are fitted with steel doors and windows to reduce future maintenance charges.

In addition the barracks site has been extensively terraced and the results of former surface erosion made good and further erosion prevented. Drainage and road making throughout the barracks is in hand.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers were revised during the year and a "Lighting and Domestic Tariff" to cover supplies of electric energy to private and business premises and a "Power Tariff" on a two-part basis for power consumers, which were in the main favourable to consumers, were introduced. The "Lighting and Domestic Tariff" operates with a favourable decreasing charge as consumption increases. The first 15 units of consumption are charged at 9d. per unit thereafter additional units are charged in varying stages at 8d., 7d., 6d., 5d., 4d., and 3d. per unit for each respective stage until a consumption of 94 units is reached for which £2 1s. 10d. is charged. For consumptions of more than 94 units 2d. per additional unit is charged. Under the two-part Power Tariff the following charges are made:—

(i) 4s. per mensem per brake horse power installed;
(ii) plus 1⅓d. per unit consumed.

A special agreement with the City Council is in force which covers the supply of electric energy and the maintenance of the street lighting system of Freetown which is owned by the Government.

A minimum charge at a rate of 5s. per mensem is made in respect of each connection and is applicable to all consumers.

Further tariff reductions resulting from, and at the same time encouraging, more extensive use may prove possible in the near future.

The number of consumers steadily increased throughout the year and the distribution system covers a wide area. Building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court* (*Ordinance No.* 39 *of* 1932).

(*a*) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(*b*) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(*d*) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts* (*Cap.* 118).

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (*Cap.* 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled " Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows:—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled " the Judge of the Circuit Court."

(*b*) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(*c*) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

(*a*) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as " the Court of the District Commissioner " or " The District Court."

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(*b*) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than

persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts* (*Ordinance No.* 40 *of* 1932).

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as " Joint Judges " to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision in all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 1938.

Offences.	*Cases reported.*	*Persons arrested.*	*Persons convicted.*	*Persons discharged.*	*Committed for trial.*
Assault and Battery ...	236	236	134	102	—
Harbour Offences ...	18	18	15	3	—
Stowaways	24	24	23	1	—
Customs Offences ...	19	19	15	4	—
Housebreaking ...	8	8	—	2	6
Burglary	1	1	—	—	1
Larceny	521	521	408	109	4
Larceny from Ship ...	6	6	2	4	—
Public Health Offences	469	469	386	83	—
Shopbreaking	4	4	—	1	3
Larceny from a Person	42	42	38	4	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	8	8	6	2	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence	18	18	18	—	—
Disorderly conduct ...	146	146	94	52	—
Fighting	38	38	29	9	—
Drunk	9	9	9	—	—
Wounding	33	33	17	15	1
Totals	1,600	1,600	1,194	391	15
		Juveniles.			
Larceny	26	26	24	2	—
Assault and Battery ...	4	4	4	—	—
Throwing Stones ...	1	1	1	—	—
Committing Nuisance...	2	2	2	—	—
Unlawful Possession ...	3	3	2	1	—
Acting as a Guide ...	1	1	1	—	—
Totals	37	37	34	3	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1938.

District.	*Number of persons prosecuted.*	*Number of persons imprisoned.*	*Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.*	*Number of persons condemned.*	*Number of persons discharged.*
Bombali ...	7	6	—	—	1
Kenema ...	4	2	—	1	1
Kailahun ...	3	2	—	1	—
Kono ...	4	2	—	1	1
Koinadugu ...	1	—	—	—	1
Bo	2	2	—	—	—
Moyamba ...	6	5	—	1	—
Port Loko ...	6	4	1	—	1
Tonkolili ...	6	4	—	1	1
Pujehun ...	2	1	1	—	—
Bonthe ...	2	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	43	30	2	5	6

Police.

During the year 1938, the strength of the Police Force was increased by 12 3rd Class constables.

Prisons.

There are now eleven prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows:—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons; Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni, Batkanu, Tonkolili,

Southern Province, local prisons; Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Sefadu.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the year 1938 was as follows:—

Males	820
Females	8
Juvenile adults	11
Juvenile offenders	—

The total daily average number in custody was 212·4.

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the year 1938 was:—

Males	744
Females	3

The daily average in custody was 148·26.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was three, compared with four in 1937.

Industries.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and maintaining fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of tailoring, tarpaulin, and mattress making, bread-making, carpentry, blacksmithing and book-binding.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1938 were:—

The Forced Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

The Employers and Employed (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

The Education Ordinance, 1938.

The Regulation of Docks Ordinance, 1938.

The Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee) Ordinance, 1938.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

The Forced Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, gives power to a Provincial Commissioner to require any Chief to commute all or any of the personal services to which he is entitled for a fixed cash payment or a share of the crops harvested by the people or of the produce collected by them. When once such personal services have been commuted it is unlawful for the Chief or his successors to exact them in the future.

The Employers and Employed (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, provides the hours of night during which it shall be unlawful to employ women and young persons in industrial undertakings; power is given to the Governor to declare the hours of night to be ten consecutive hours instead of eleven as provided by the Principal Ordinance, for a not longer period than 60 days in certain circumstances. The Education Ordinance, 1938, brings into existence a Board of Education consisting of the Director of Education and three members of the staff of the Education Department, not less than four persons nominated by the schools already in existence in Sierra Leone and such other persons as may be appointed by the Governor. Among its other duties the Board is empowered to advise the Governor in matters of rule making concerning, *inter alia,* the buildings in which schools may be conducted, the making of Government grants to schools, missionary and educational societies and to schools maintained by Tribal Authorities in the

Protectorate, the inspection of such schools, the registration and conditions of service of teachers, and the provision of scholarships from public funds. The Ordinance empowers the Governor to prohibit the opening of any new school which does not conform with the requirements of the Board and to close down an existing school where the Board represents that it is improperly conducted.

The Regulation of Docks Ordinance, 1938, gives effect to the provisions of an International Labour Convention and gives power to the Governor-in-Council to make rules to ensure, so far as possible, the safety of persons employed in docks, wharves and quays.

The Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee) Ordinance, 1938, sets up a Committee which may enquire into any allegation of professional misconduct on the part of any legal practitioner. The Committee consists of the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, both *ex officio,* and three unofficial members of the legal profession nominated by the Sierra Leone Bar Association. In the event of the Committee being satisfied that an allegation of misconduct has been made out as a result of an enquiry, at which the accused legal practitioner shall have the right of presenting his case, the Committee shall present a report to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, after hearing the practitioner concerned and after such further enquiry as it may deem necessary, may take such disciplinary action against the offending practitioner as the circumstances seem to warrant.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, as its principal provision, sets out the qualification required for an appointment to a Judgeship upon the Supreme Court Bench. It provides that a person selected for such appointment shall have been qualified to practise as an advocate in Courts of unlimited civil or criminal jurisdiction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland or in any other part of His Majesty's Dominions for a period of not less than five years.

No factory legislation, as such, exists, but there is provision in the Minerals Ordinance for the inspection of mine workings. The Employers and Employed Ordinance contains provisions for the restriction and prohibition of the employment of children and young persons in certain industrial undertakings, for the betterment of working conditions generally and for the imposition, when and where it is thought necessary, of minimum wages. The question of workmen's compensation and other kindred matters are at present receiving the attention of the Government.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with twenty-three agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1938, was £89,016 16s. 8½d.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;
West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;
West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and
West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on the 31st December, 1938, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows:—

		£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1938			383,885
Revenue, 1938		886,149	
Expenditure, 1938	910,077		
Add Depreciation of Investments ...	17,181		
		927,258	
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue			41,109
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1938			342,776

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were:—

	Revenue. £	*Expenditure.* £
1934	598,839	603,208
1935	678,978	585,574
1936	969,668	879,370*
1937	1,025,709	919,266
1938	886,149	910,077

* Includes £208,277 transferred to Reserve Funds.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1938, was £1,288,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £128,678.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1938, amounted to £932,488 made up as follows:—

	£
Reserve and surplus Funds invested...	503,210
Other investments	115,366
Stores*	—
Loans*	—
Advances	85,201
Cash	228,711

* Now charged to expenditure.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1938 were:—

	£
Customs	402,396
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse dues ...	17,135
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	38,249
Taxes	238,272

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. On 23rd November, 1938, the method of assessment of duty on goods paying an ad valorem duty was changed. The basis of valuation which was formerly a first cost became a c.i.f. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an ad valorem duty of 8 per cent. (Preferential) and 20 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an ad valorem duty is levied of 16 per cent. (Preferential) and 32 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are: cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d. per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey ¾d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 1½d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, 1¼d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2½d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); flour, free (Preferential) and 1s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 0s. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, free (Preferential) and 4s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 7d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 8d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil other than Soya bean 2d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per imperial gallon (General); onions, free (Preferential) and ¼d. (General); potatoes, ¼d. lb. (Preferential) and ½d. per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. 9d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk piece-goods. 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 4d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 8d. per lb. (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 6s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) to 8s. 8d. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, £1 a ton; kola nuts, ½d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 10d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wines, spirits, petroleum products, tobacco, arms and ammunition, gunpowder, West African products (excluding Liberian coffee) and manufactures, potatoes and onions are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1938 amounted to £644.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows:—

> Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.
>
> Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £4.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Surveys.—No funds or staff were available for topographical surveys during the year. The position as regards the Topographical Survey of the Protectorate that was completed in 1931 and which comprises 109 field sheets on the 1/62,500 scale, remains the same as before. Only 45 of the sheets have been published. The remaining 64 sheets are reproduced and issued in sunprint form. The demand for the unpublished sheets again exceeded that for the previous year. Four hundred and seven hand-tinted sunprints were issued against 168 for 1937. The survey now requires revision. Until this has been done no more sheets will be published. It is expected that staff will be available to commence the revision early next year.

Cadastral Surveys.—The number of applications for mining surveys was considerably less than for any other year since 1935. One hundred and fifty-six applications comprising 142 for Mining Rights, two for Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences and one for a Mining Lease, were received, examined and reports on them submitted to the Mines Office. Only three field parties were employed on these surveys against seven for 1937. Sixty-one surveys were completed. The number of outstanding surveys at the end of the year was 101.

The extension of the Freetown Town Survey, to include the rapidly expanding building areas to the South-west of the City, which was commenced in 1937 was completed during the year.

In all, five new sheets on the 1/1250 scale were surveyed, drawn up with contours, and issued in sunprint form.

The main framework of the Colony was further broken down along the new Peninsula Circular Road to provide points for the Colony Cadastral Survey which is now being carried out by the staff released from the Minefield.

In connection with this, twenty-one miles of theodolite traverses were run and nine new trig points established during the year.

A large number of miscellaneous surveys were carried out for the military authorities and for the Colonial Government.

Lands Branch.—Rents for tenancies of Crown Lands amounting to £506 19s. 3d. were collected. Twenty-five New Tenancy Agreements and 11 Fish Trap Licences were granted and 38 Tenancy Agreements terminated.

The work of inspecting and maintaining Crown Lands was carried on as usual. In connection with road widening and construction nearly 150 claims were settled during the year. Action was taken under the unoccupied Lands Ordinance at Kissy Village, several unclaimed plots being acquired by the Crown. In addition much work was done for the War Department, rents being collected and various acquisitions of land dealt with.

General.—The value of maps supplied to other Government Departments during the year amounted to £270 11s. 6d. against £112 6s. 6d. for 1937. Sale of maps to the public realised £82 14s. 4d. Revenue from Mining Surveys amounted to £1,524 10s. 5d.

Geological Survey.—Further progress was made in the Geological Survey of the Protectorate on the scale 1/62,500, and a more detailed survey was continued in the vicinity of some of the mining areas. The mineral Columbite—Tantatite was identified in concentrates obtained from the Tonkolili and Pampana Rivers, and some of these have been submitted to the Imperial Institute for partial analysis. Numerous rock and mineral specimens were identified and reported upon for the mining community. A geological map of Sierra Leone on the scale 1/500,000 and several mineral exhibits were prepared for the British Empire Exhibition at Glasgow, and the Officer in charge of the geological survey served one month of his leave as assistant commissioner at the Sierra Leone exhibit in the West African Pavilion of the Exhibition.

APPENDIX.

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.	£	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements; Annual Subscription, inland	1	5	0
Royal Gazette, inclusive of all Supplements; Annual Subscription, Overseas	1	10	0

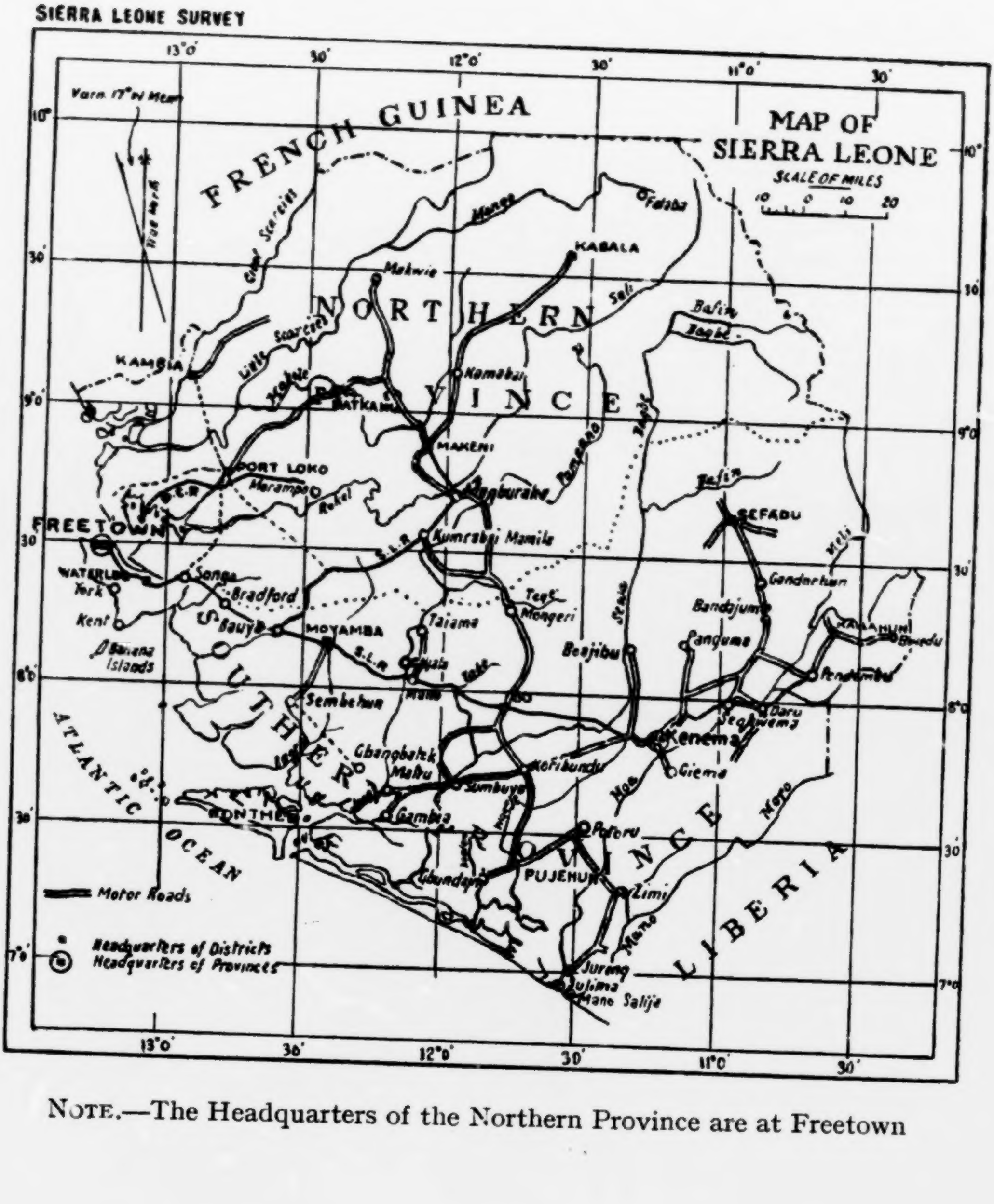
	For current or previous year.		*For any prior year.*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Royal Gazette, single copies, inclusive of "*Special Supplements*" only		6	1	0
Trade Supplement (postage 1d. extra)		3		6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, &c., not exceeding—				
8 pages		4		8
9–16 „		6	1	0
17–32 „		9	1	6
33–48 „	1	3	2	6
49–64 „	1	6	3	0
65–96 „	2	0	4	0
Exceeding 96 pages	2	6	5	0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

	Price.		*Postage.*	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 each	12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 each	12	6	1	2
Blue Book, 1937	12	6	1	7
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year ...	1	6		2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent numbers, each		6		2
Sierra Leone Studies (abridged edition of Nos. 1, 2, 3)	1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7–18 and 20, each ...	1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, No. 21	1	0		3½
Handbook of the Temne Language	5	0		3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	10	6		3
Handbook on the Tse-tse Fly (Austen)	5	0		6
Beri-beri and the Freetown Prison	10	6		6

	Price.			*Postage.*	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vol. 1 by D. A. Bannerman	1	2	6	1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville		2	6		1½
Tide Table, 1939			4		1
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon		1	0		2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone		1	4		2
History of Royal West African Frontier Force, by Lieut. R. P. M. Davis		7	6		2½
A Limba-English and English-Limba Dictionary, by Mary Lane Clarke		5	0		4
Report on the application of the principles of Native Administration to the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, by J. S. Fenton, O.B.E.		1	6		1
Customs Trade Report, 1936		5	0		5
Customs Trade Report, 1937		5	0		7


SIERRA LEONE SURVEY
MAP OF SIERRA LEONE
SCALE OF MILES
10 0 10 20
Varn. 17° W Mean
True North
FRENCH GUINEA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
LIBERIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
FREETOWN
WATERLOO
York
Kent
Banana Islands
KAMBIA
PORT LOKO
BATKANU
Makwie
KABALA
Falaba
Kamabai
MAKENI
Magburaka
Kumrabai Mamila
Marampa
Songo
Bradford
Bauya
MOYAMBA
Taiama
Mongeri
Mano
Sembehun
Gbangbatok
Matru
Sumbuya
BONTHE
Gambia
Gbundapi
PUJEHUN
Potoru
Zimi
Jurang
Sulima
Mano Salija
Bo
Baiima
Kenema
Giema
Pendembu
Daru
Segbwema
KAILAHUN
Buedu
Bandajuma
Panguma
Gandorhun
SEFADU
KoFibundu
Bafi
Bagbe
Sali
Mongo
Great Scarcies
Little Scarcies
Kolente
Rokel
Pampana
Sewa
Moa
Meli
Mano
Moro
S.L.R.
Motor Roads
Headquarters of Districts
Headquarters of Provinces
13°0'
30'
12°0'
11°0'
10°
9°0'
8°0'
7°0'

NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province are at Freetown

(19938—48) Wt. 2394—4367 625 11/39 P. St. G. 377

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E. [Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

RHODESIA-NYASALAND ROYAL COMMISSION

Report [Cmd. 5949] 7s. 6d. (7s. 11d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE WEST INDIES

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E. [Cmd. 6070] 3s. 6d. (3s. 10d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS

Report of Committee [Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

COLONIAL STUDENTS

Report of the Colonial Students Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1938 [Colonial No. 161] 9d. (10d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List	[Colonial No. 157] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Audit Service List	[Colonial No. 162] 4d. (5d.)
Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 163] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 172] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Police Service List	[Colonial No. 168] 1s. (1s. 2d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 160] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2 : York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2 : 120, George Street
MANCHESTER 1 : 26, York Street
CARDIFF : 1, St. Andrew's Crescent
BELFAST : 80, Chichester Street
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COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

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